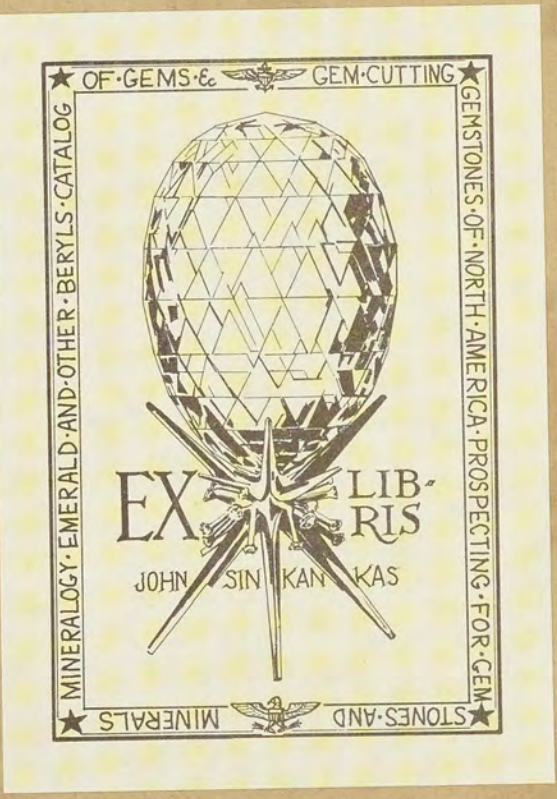
CABINET

OF

GEMS.

20.50 T. Harrison
June 7, 1973





Her Most Gracious Majesty
Queen Victoria

Drawn & Engraved by T. W. Harland.

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THE

CABINET OF GEMS;

OR,

Vocabulary of Precious Stones,

COLOURED AND ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THEIR COMPARATIVE VALUE:

TOGETHER WITH

A DESCRIPTION OF THE LARGEST KNOWN

DIAMONDS AND COLOURED GEMS

IN THE WORLD;

THE COMMERCIAL

HISTORY OF ROUGH DIAMONDS;

An Account of the Pearl Fishery;

AND THE

REGALIAS OF ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, &c.

BY S. BATCHELOR,

HARROGATE.

KNARESBROUGH:

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1840.

From the very favourable reception this little work met with on its first appearance, the author is again induced to lay it before the Public in an improved form; and he trusts, that the information given in the present edition, will render it an acceptable companion for the Boudoir and the Cabinet.


Brilliant
1
Pearl
8
Aquamarine
15
Ruby
2
Blue Topaz
9
Garnet
16
Sapphire
3
Ruby Spinelle
10
Chrysoprasus
17
Emerald
4
Chrysolite
11
Jayeinth
18
Opal
5
Carbuncle
12
Beryl
19
Oriental Topaz
6
Pink Topaz
13
Tourmaline
20
Oriental Amethyst
7
Turquoise
14
Peridot
21

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

Coloured Stones.

1. Brilliant.
2. Ruby.
3. Sapphire.
4. Emerald.
5. Opal.
6. Oriental Topaz.
7. Oriental Amethyst.
8. Pearl.
9. Blue Topaz.
10. Ruby Spinelle.
11. Chrysolite.
12. Carbuncle.
13. Pink Topaz.
14. Turquoise.
15. Aquamarine.
16. Garnet.
17. Chrysoprase.
18. Jaycinth.
19. Beryl.
20. Tourmaline.
21. Peridot.

Peculiar Diamonds.

1. Regent Diamond.
2. Austrian Diamond.
3. Pigott Diamond.
4. Grand Russian Diamond.
5. Nassuc Diamond.
6. Blue Diamond, worn at the Coronation of George IV.
7. The large Diamond in the British Crown.

THE

CABINET OF GEMS;

OR,

VOCABULARY OF PRECIOUS STONES.

1.
Diamonds.

A Brilliant is the hardest and most resplendent of gems, and has ever been esteemed much more valuable than all others.

A Brilliant, when pure, perfectly clear, and pellucid, is distinguished by its vivid brightness and splendour; and its complexion must be that of a drop of the clearest rock water.

Rose Diamond,

Their being called Rose Diamonds probably took its rise from the shape in some measure resembling that of a rose bud before it expands; they appear in a kind of semi-globular form, only terminating in a point at the top, which form, and likewise the work or facets thereof covering the whole face of the stone, being more equal, exhibit a more even display of beauty than a Brilliant, whose lustre is derived from the angles or facets of the sides only; and as their angles are larger than those of a Brilliant, they throw forth more copious rays, the lustre of which appears to be equivalent to the sparkling vigour of the smaller and more numerous angles of a Brilliant. The Rose Diamond is flat underneath, and its upper surface raised in the form of a dome.

Table Diamonds

Are the least beautiful, and are made of those Diamonds which, with considerable breadth, have only a very trifling depth.

Lasque Diamonds

Are formed from those Diamonds which are flat or veiny, they are unknown to European workmen.

There are few things in history, that at first appear so remarkable as the prodigious value which has been attached to the Diamond. The fascinating beauty of this gem, depending on its unrivalled brilliancy, was unquestionably the original cause of its attracting admiration, and which still upholds it in universal estimation; notwithstanding the smallness of its size, there is no substance, natural or artificial, that can sustain any comparison with it in this respect, from the vivid and various refractions of all the precious stones.

The finest Diamonds are found in the East Indies, in the provinces of Golconda, Visapore, Bengal, and the island of Borneo.

There are four mines, or rather two mines and two rivers, whence Diamonds are drawn.

1. That of Raolconda, in the province of Carnatica, five days' journey from Golconda, and eight from Viasapore *(it has been discovered about* 280 *years,)* and in the Brazils, in the mountainous district called Serro Dofrio, and other places.

2. That of Gani or Colour, seven days' journey from Golconda eastwardly; it was discovered 200 years ago by a peasant, who, digging the ground, found a natural fragment of 25 Carats.

3. That of Soumelpour, a large town in the kingdom of Bengal, near the diamond mine. This is the most ancient of them all, it should rather be called Goual, which is the name of the river in the sand where those gems are found.

The fourth mine, or rather river, is that of Succudon, in the island of Borneo.

In the diamond washings of India, Sapphires, Rubies, Topazes, and Aquamarines have been frequently found.

This is the original account of Diamonds. Of late a discovery of fine ones were found in South America, and there has been several found lately, in 1820, on the Ural mountains, in Asiatic Russia, and many more were found in Count Porlaier's estate.

It appears by accounts, that for some years the native Princes of India had employed thirty thousand or more of their vassals in washing and searching for Diamonds; so long as they collected as many as would cover the expences incurred, their labour was continued.

It is a matter of great astonishment, that in so many centuries so few large Diamonds should have been brought from India.

Diamonds of a great size are never sold by the Rajahs or persons of rank, but are preserved in families from generation to generation with religious care, to aggrandize their families; and the head of the family has a small hole drilled on the surface of the Diamond, and when he dies, the next chief does the same, and so from one to another; and the more holes the Diamond has, the higher it is in esteem, although such holes may prejudice it if it were to be manufactured; but as that is never intended, they do not regard such prejudice, and those Diamonds are never parted with. If they foresee any ruin to the family, as that sometimes occurs in the further pursuit of Diamonds, which is very expensive, by the vast number of hands they employ in that undertaking, in such cases they bury them, so that they never appear again, for they cannot bear the thoughts of any other having the possession of that which they have obtained at so great an expence; and it is said, that in consequence of that custom, there are many very large Diamonds irrecoverably lost, and likewise many that will never be parted with.

Though the Diamond is commonly clear and pellucid, yet some of them are met with of a rose colour, and pink, or inclining to green, blue, and black, and some have black specks, Tavermiere has seen, in the treasury of the Mogul, with black

specks in it, weighing about 58 carats; and he informs us that yellow and black Diamonds are produced in the mines of Carnatica.

Those Brilliants that are skilfully cut, and fine colours, pink, blue, red, or green, their value is much enhanced, and are eagerly sought for by connoisseurs.

Diamonds, in their natural state, generally occur under the most beautiful and regular geometric forms; their lustre and colour frequently resemble gum Arabic; they often exhibit a polished appearance, when disengaged of its earthy particles; no substance in the mineral kingdom, displays in miniature such variety of regular solids as the Diamond, which are as captivating to the connoisseur, as the finest Brilliant can be to the wearer.

The combustion of a Diamond is a property very generally known, and may be easily consumed by being placed in a cavity of charcoal, and urging on it the flame of a spirit lamp, by means of a stream of oxygen.

2.

The Ruby

Is esteemed the most valuable of all precious stones when perfect. The colour of this beautiful gem, in its perfect state, is by transmitted light a cochineal red, presenting a richness of hue the most exquisite and unrivalled; it is, however, in general more or less pale, and often mixed with blue, hence it occurs rose red, peach blossom red, and lilac blue, passing into the Amethyst; they are extremely hard, and found at Cambeejas, Calicut, Coriæ, the kingdom of Pegu, and the island of Ceylon; the mine in Pegu, where they are most plentiful, is in the mountain Capelon, a few leagues from Sirhind, the residence of the king of that country: the finest Rubies brought from hence, do not exceed three or four carats weight each, the king reserving all the large stones to himself. In Ceylon, the Rubies are found in a river, which descends from the mountain towards the middle of the island, and some are found in the earth. The Rubies of Ceylon are usually brighter and more beautiful than those of Pegu, but they are rare, the king of Ceylon prohibiting his people to gather or traffic in them.

There are Rubies also found in Europe, particularly in Bohemia and Hungary, but not so fine as the oriental ones. A perfect oriental Ruby, three or four carats weight and upwards, is more valuable than a Diamond of the same weight.

European princes cannot boast of Rubies of any considerable magnitude. Henry VIII. is decorated, in most of his portraits, with a magnificent collar of Rubies, but it no longer exists among the Crown Jewels, and it is unknown what has become of it.

3.

Sapphire,

The perfect Sapphire next claims our attention. When pure, its colour is of a clear and bright indigo blue to a high degree of translucency, but it more generally occurs pale blue or cloudy,

and not unfrequently transparent in one part, and spotted and streaked of a dark inky blue, in the other; nearly approaching the Ruby in hardness. They are found in the streams and rivers in Ceylon, and various parts of India, but more particularly in the kingdom of Pegu, where it is met with in crystalyzed fragments, seldom exceeding the size of the common nut, though sometimes larger; they are also found in the same mines with the Rubies, and some are brought from Bisnagar, Calicut, and other parts; we should be furnished with abundance from Ceylon, if the king of that island did not prohibit all commerce of them with foreigners; many are found in Bohemia and Silesia, but inferior to the oriental ones.

4.

Emerald,

In public estimation the Emerald ranks next to the Ruby, it is distinguished from all other gems by its colour, which is a pure unmixed green, varies in intensity from the palest possible tinge to a full and pure body colour. For the last two centuries and more, the only country known to yield emeralds, is Peru; they are found in Santa Fe, and in the valley of Tunca, and in various parts of the East Indies, and other provinces or kingdoms, as the Scythian, Bactriam, Egyptian, Persican, &c.

This gem, however small, is so rarely seen perfect, that an Emerald without a flaw has passed into a proverb. There have been many very large specimens brought to England, which were only fit for cabinets; they are crystaliz, some weighing three and four ounces, and in general full of flaws.

5.

The Precious Oriental Opal,

Is an elegant and singular gem, it is opaque, and the body colour a white or pearl grey; it displays its beauties without the aid of a lapidary, and reflects all the colours of a rainbow: celestial blue, green, and red, are seen in it particularly beautiful, and so fascinating as to captivate the admirer. We often meet

with Opals, the colours arranged in small spangles, and called the Harlequin Opal; sometimes it exhibits only one of the above colours,and of those the most esteemed are the vivid emerald green, and orange yellow; when possessed of the latter colours it is called the Golden Opal. The finest of these elegant gems are from the East Indies, we seldom meet with them large in England, though I have seen a most beautiful one, an inch in diameter, set round with Brilliants as a ring.

The Opal, in all ages, has been esteemed as a curious gem. There is the Opal of Nonnius, this appears olive coloured by reflection, and then opoque, but when held between the eye and the light it is found to be transparent, and appears of a beautiful Ruby colour. Bocce De Boot considers it as the most precious sort of Opal, and indeed the most wonderful of this kind of nature's works; he gives a lofty encomium upon it chiefly from Pliny, who called this Opal Paedros. This species of Opal is the Sangenon of India, and Nonnius of the ancients, and modern Europeans, from the Roman Senator Nonnius, possessor of the famous Opal of Rome, worth 20000 sesterces, who preferred banishment to parting with it to Anthony. An Opal answering exactly to Pliny's description of the Nunnius, was discovered about 90 years ago in the ruins of Alexandria, and purchased for a trifle by the French Consul, Lironcouet, from his Dragoman, Roboly. The Duke de Nivernois, when ambassador to London, in 1763, was in possession of the very gem.

The next in value is the Iris Opal, of a glassy white colour, but when looked through it appears of a flame, as the Nunnius does of a Ruby.

There is another of the same species in Sweden, which by reflection appears of a brownish colour, but by refraction is red with violet veins. The white Opal having its ground of a white glass like complexion, from whence green, yellow, bluish, and purple rays are thrown out, but when held against the light, it appears of a reddish, or rather flame colour.

Wallerius, in his Mineralogy, says, that this white Opal answers the description of it given by Pliny, much better than the olive coloured one above described. There are two varieties of it,—the oriental Opal, shewing many colours. Those oriental gems are found in the island of Ceylon, where they are called the Elementary Stones. The Indians put as high a value on them as a Diamond.

There is another kind of oriental Opal, much valued, called the flaming Opal, because it changes its colour, as if sparks of fire escape from it in parallel lines.

The Sangenon or Nonnius Opal is found in the East Indies, the Iris in Ceylon, the milky Opal at Eilbenstaek and Frieberg, the blueish, or most common and least esteemed, in Hungary, Silesia, Saxony, &c.

Mr. Born mentions what he calls an Avanturine Cat's Eye, of a flesh colour and transparent, possessing the curious structure of the Avanturine, viz, composed of little plates like scales, with a matalic splendour, which reflects the rays of light like the Opal. This stone we suspect to be that which has led authors to class Avanturine with the Opal, although it is, in fact, a fine opaque Quartz.

Russia produces the Opal, at the river Katscha, near the city of Krasnajark. The Cats Eye is found in mount Caucasus, and is often confounded with the Opal. The late Leopald II. Emperor of Germany, was in possession of an oriental stone sometimes described as a Cats Eye, and sometimes as an Opal, of one inch diameter, valued at a great price. Prince Potemkin, the Russian General, purchased for 1000 ducats a stone of the same kind, said to have been taken by the famous Nadir Shah, from the head of a Gentoo Idol of which it made one of the eyes; but by what means Prince Potemkin became possessed of it, we have not been informed, but with many other gems it disappeared from the tent of the Persian conqueror when he was assassinated.

Beautiful Opals of a large size are extremely rare, so that it is difficult to find an Opal sufficiently perfect and large to be

completely possessed of all its beauties, this renders it so precious, and makes it almost impossible to determine its value.

Opal is however valued at double price of Sapphire of the same size, the noble Opal owes its beautiful play of colours to a multiplicity of imperceptible fissures in its interior. It is very remarkable all that the superlative colours of the Opal may entirely change or disappear, when the stone is divided, this phenomenon, which has been demonstrated more than once by experience leads us to think that all the sparkling play of the Opal is owing to the refraction of the rays of the sun from the surface of the stone, which is naturally formed to produce this refraction, which owes its beautiful display of colours.

6.

Oriental Topaz

Is a very elegant and beautiful gem, of a fine, pure, yellow, gold or straw colour, of different degrees of deepness; they are of very great splendour, and when perfect, possesses great beauty if skilfully cut and polished; they are highly resplendent, resemble the yellow Diamond, and equal the Ruby in hardness. They are brought from Arabia, and many parts of the East Indies.

7

Oriental Amethyst,

This interesting gem appears to unite the blue of the Sapphire with the red of the Ruby, so nicely blended as to produce, by daylight, the most beautiful and perfect violet colour, and by candlelight a decided blue. They are from the East Indies.

8.

Oriental Pearl,

The Pearl, whose value increases in proportion to its roundness and complexion, must be milk white, not of a dead and lifeless, but of a clear and lively hue, free from stains, specks, or roughness, such are of the highest esteem and value; the beauty they possess is the mere produce of nature, and they are

not susceptible of any advantages or helps by art, circumstance which recommends them to the fashionable world. The Pearl is no more than a morbid excrescence from the shell it is found in. They are met with in different parts of the world, but the finest are those of the Persian Gulph; many are found about Cape Cormorin, and the island of Ceylon, but they are greatly inferior to the Persian; very large ones have been found about Borneo, Summatra, and the neighbouring islands, but not of the fine shape and colour of the Persian; many persons have been of opinion that they were bred singly, one only in a shell, but this is an error, many being frequently found together. There are accounts of one shell producing 150.

Pliny mentions Cleopatra's magnificent Pearl, valued at £80000.; one brought in 1574, to Philip II. of the size of a pigeon's egg, valued at 14000 ducats; another of the Emperor Rudolf's, mentioned by Boetis, called La Peregrina, or the Incomparable, of the size of a muscate pear, weighing thirty carats; and that mentioned by Travermiere, belonging to the Emperor of Persia, in 1633, bought of an Arab, for several thousand pounds.

9.

Blue Topaz

Is a most elegant gem, of a fine celestial blue, and has been found of considerable magnitude. The finest specimen was brought in the rough state from Brazil, and when cut and polished weighed above an ounce and a quarter. When light coloured, they are often taken for Aquamarines, from which they may always be distinguished by their greater weight and hardness.

10.

Spinelle Ruby

When perfect, is a gem of great value and scarcity, itscolour is a fine full carmine or rose red, which varies in intensity, hardness, and specific gravity; is inferior to the Ruby, and found in

Ceylon and Pegu, of an octagonal form. Stones of three carats and upwards are rare, and may be considered nearly of equal value with the oriental Ruby, when perfect.

11.

Chrysoberyl, or Oriental Chrysolite

Is of a fine gold yellow colour, intermixed with green, exhibiting a peculiar richness of tint, and in lustre yields only to the Diamond. It is met with in the Brazils, in the alluvial soil, associating with Diamonds; and in Ceylon, it is found sometimes in crystals: a stone of twenty carats is rarely met with. In that country it is considered a valuable coloured stone; and although but recently introduced into Europe, it is rapidly rising in public estimation: the high lustre and exquisite polish which, it is capable of receiving, enables it to sustain a competition with the yellow Diamond; and so great is its brilliancy by candle-light, that, while the transcendent splendour of the Diamond destroys the effect of other stones, this is able to support its presence with unimpaired beauty. The Chrysolite is the only coloured stone that shews to the greatest advantage when formed into a Brilliant. By friction it becomes electric, and may be distinguished by this property.

12.

Carbuncle

Is a very elegant gem, of a deep blood red colour, with an admixture of scarlet. This gem was known among the ancients by the name of Anthrax. When held up against the sun it loses its deep tinge, and becomes exactly the colour of burning charcoal; it bears the fire unaltered, not parting with its colour, nor becoming at all the paler. It is found only in the East Indies.

13.

Pink Topaz

Some are found in the natural colour, but the finest are produced from the yellow Occidental Topaz. When of intense colour by application of heat in a crucible of sand, it is changed from yellow to a beautiful pink.

14.

Turquoise

The colour of the Turquoise is a beautiful celestial blue, which migrates into a pale blue, and is sometimes tinged with green; it is destitute of that lustre which distinguishes most of the precious stones; it is also opaque, and does not admit of a very high polish; there is nothing but its very agreeable hue, which can recommend it to notice, the latter character it possesses in no inconsiderable degree, and retains it unimpaired by candle-light. This gem is highly valued in Persia and other Mahometan states, and on that account the most valuable Turquoise are seldom sent to Europe. The king of Persia has for many years prohibited the digging for any but himself. Turquoises are mostly from Persia, the Indies and some parts of Turkey; but the finest Turquoise is found chiefly at Nishapur, in the province of Khorasan, Persia.

15.

Aquamarine

Is a gem of a sea green colour, of different shades, sometimes greenish yellow and blueish green, brought from the Brazils, Siberia, &c. but the finest are from Ceylon; in hardness inferior to the blue Topaz, which some varieties resemble, but they may be distinguished by not possessing electricity. Large stones from one to four ounces are not uncommon, but they frequently contain many flaws, and from their bulk, are only in request as specimens for the cabinet.

16.

Garnet

Is a fine gem, its colours is of a deep red, approaching that of a ripe mulberry, but held to the sun, or set on a light foil is a fire colour; they vary in colour from dark to light red or brown, the Syrian is considered the finest. The choisest varieties come from the East Indies; the Bohemian Garnet is red with a slight cast of yellow, similar to the Jaycinth. That species of Garnet called the rock Ruby, is very hard of a fine red, mixed with a violet colour

17.

Chrysoprasus, or Chrysoprase

The tenth of the precious stones mentioned in the Revelations, as forming the foundation of the heavenly Jerusalem, is, by Mineralogists, reckoned to be a species of Chrysolite, of a semi-opaque, cloudy, pale, green, leak colour, has an agreeable appearance, is translucent, and shews to advantage by candle-light, They are found in Silesia, Bohemia, and different parts.

18.

Jaycinth, or Hyacinth

This gem is of various degrees of deepness and paleness, but always of a deadish red, with a mixture of yellow. The Jaycinth, though less striking to the eye than any other real gem, is not without its beauty in the finest specimens. The finest are from Ceylon.

19.

Beryl

Is a beautiful gem, of a blueish green colour, found in the gold mines of Peru. An extraordinary Beryl, the rarest specimen of this precious stone, was found in the short range of hills near Murzinskaja, in the district of Catharinenburgh, in the year 1827; it is more than eleven pounds in weight, and is valued at 150000 roubles. I have recently seen some very fine specimens, but not particularly large, that were found in Ireland; fine ones are found at mount Zahara, in Egypt.

20.

Tourmaline

Is of a very dark green colour, and transparent; in an horizontal position it appears opaque: there are varieties,—some are translucent, and of a green, blue, and pink colour; by heat or friction they become electric, and may be distinguished by this property. It has become a very fashionable stone in rich Jewellery, and is brought from the Indies, Siberia, North America, Moravia, Brazils, &c.

21.

Peridot, or common Chrysolite

Is of an olive green colour, of more or less intensity. It comes from the Levant, Saxony, Spain, and the Brazils: although deficient in hardness and brilliancy, it is admired on account of its agreeable colour. It is known by the name of olivine, but in its purer state, is denominated as above; it has become a very fashionable stone in our Jewellery, is inferior in hardness to the oriental.

22.

Asteria, or Star Stone.

This is semi-transparent Sapphire, with a pale cloudy tinge, and exhibiting the appearance of a star, with six radii, which sparkles with great brilliancy as its position is varied in the rays of the sun. The Asteria is produced by cutting the stone across, and if the primitive crystal (the rhomboid) should be in the centre, the rays of light entering the stone will be refracted, and diverge from the angle of the nucleus, in the form of a star with six rays. This gem, when extremely fine, is rare; the finest specimen known, was in the private collection of Louis XVIII.

The Asteria is frequently produced in the Ruby, by the same cause as in the Sapphire, they are highly prized, which owes its principal beauty to its character.

23.

Balais Ruby

This is a pale variety of the Spinelle, it varies in colour from a light red to a yellowish red, and probably derives its name from supposed locality, or from some peculiar earth in which it may have been found: the Balais possesses considerable beauty, and though not so rare as the Spinelle, is by no means common. It is much admired for its agreeable tinge of colour, and when pure, perfect, and of a good size, is considered valuable, but considerably less than the other distinguished stones of this class.

24.

Red Topaz

This beautiful stone, which seldom occurs naturally, is a fine crimson colour, tinged with a rich brown, extremely rare, and generally taken to be a variety of Ruby. The price, from its scarcity, is quite capricious; it has an exquisitely pleasing colour.

25.

Grisolita

A very scarce gem, found in the Brazils, approaching the colour of a Chrysolite, or yellow Diamond, which it resembles when skilfully cut and polished.

26.

Siberian Garnet

Is remarkably scarce, and found only in Siberia; the colour approaches the Sapphire and Ruby. The largest in England, was in the possession of their late Majesties, George III. and IV.

27.

Occidental Yellow Topaz

This gem is a beautiful wine yellow colour, of different degrees of intensity; the fuller and deeper the yellow tinge, the more it is admired. This Topaz is generally in use in most of the modern Jewellery; they are often very beautiful, scarcely to be distinguished from the oriental, but by their softness, and brought from Silesia, Bohemia, and many other parts.

28.

Occidental Amethyst.

The colour of this gem, when perfect, resembles that of the violet, or purple grape; it not unfrequently happens, that the tinge is confined to one part of the stone only, while the other part is left almost colourless: when it possesses a richness, clearness, and uniformity of hue, it is considered a gem of exquisite beauty. This kind of Amethyst is in general used in

most Jewellery. It specific gravity and hardness bears no comparison with the oriental Amethyst, and is also inferior in beauty and lustre. They are found in the Brazils, Siberia, the Pyrenees, and in the mountains of Auvergne, but Ceylon produces the finest; there are many found in Scotland and Ireland, but inferior to the former.

29.

Vermilion.

This gem is of a brisk garnet red colour, is from East Indies, and was in great repute among the ancients.

30.

Yellow Amethyst.

This stone very nearly resembles the Occidental Topaz, but of inferior value; a late discovery by the Portuguese.

31.

Occidental Pearls

Have a milky and deadish cast, and want the polished gloss of the oriental; they are very plentiful in many parts of America, and also in Silesia, Bohemia, &c. in Wales and Scotland they often meet with them in their oysters and muscles, but of no beauty.

32.

Mexican Opal

This Opal is not generally so opaque, and has not the beautiful refraction of colours, as the oriental ones, and may be distinguished by its softness: it has a peculiar property of changing its colour by a gradual heat, and when cold resumes its natural colours again.

33.

Cymophane or opalescent Chrysoberyl,

Is a chatoyant variety of the Chrysolite; it emits a luminous white ray, which changes its position according as the stone receives the light; its principal estimation in the eye of the

connoisseur, arises from that circumstance, which, on the other hand, renders it of little value to the Jeweller, the brilliant translucency of the Chrysoberyl being more esteemed by the public. The Cymophane is generally cut *en cabochon*, that may better shew the play of light from whence it derives its name.

34.

Almandine,

A stone of the middle nature between a Ruby and a Garnet, but more approaching the colour of the latter. They are from the East Indies.

35.

Armenian,

A beautiful gem, of a blue colour spotted with green, black and yellow; anciently brought only from Armenia, but now found in Germany and the Tyrol.

36.

Amandine,

This gem was the Troezencies of the ancients, is variegated with red and white, but at present little known.

37

Citrine,

Is a species of Crystal, of an extreemly beautiful yellow, generally clear, fine, and free from flaws; it is very plentiful in the West Indies, and may be mistaken for a Topaz.

38.

Nephrite,

This stone is of a pale leak green and yellow colour, it is opaque, found only on the Island of Iona, and the Hebrides.

39.

Aubarobite,

A new species of precious stone, lately discovered in Russia; it is a mineral, resembling granite, the colour is green as an Emerald. It is named after the president of the Russian academy.

40.

Rubacus or the Rubacolle,

This stone is red, with a cast of yellow, and the least valuable of all the class. From the East indies.

41.

Minas Nova, or White Topaz,

Is a beautiful pellucid stone, possessing greater brilliancy than Crystal; they are from the Brazils.

42.

Jargoon,

A kind of precious stones, of the nature of a Diamond, but softer; found at Ceylon and the Brazils.

43.

Semi Opal,

Is a very curious and remarkable stone, it is generally opaque, and very seldom large, of an apple green colour in general, but there are some of a beautiful Ruby colour, and others again of a fine colour of mother of pearl, or of a blueish Opal; if immersed in cold water for about an hour or less, it becomes quite transparent, and when taken from the water it resumes its natural colour in the same space of time. There is a few specimens in the British Museum; they are generally found in China.

44.

Amphitane,

Among the ancient naturalists, a stone said to attract gold, as the loadstone does iron. Pliny says, it was found in that part of the Indies, where the native gold laid so near the surface of the earth as to be turned in small up masses among the earth of ant-hills; and describes it to have been of a square figure, and of the colour and brightness of gold; the description plainly points out a well known fossil called by Dr. Hill, Pyricubiums, this is common in the mines of most parts of the world, but neither this, nor any other stone, was ever supposed in our own times to have the power of attracting gold.

45.

Cairngorhm,

Is a fine yellow Crystal, some are smoky and brown, found in the Highlands of North Britain, but are inferior to the Brazilian as some from thence have been taken for Topazes.

46.

Bloodstone,

Is of a dark green colour, opaque, and spotted with blood red, and the produce of the East Indies and other parts.

47.

Sardonyx,

Is considered to be a beautiful variety of Chalcedony, when perfect of one uniform tone and colour, which is yellowish brown or reddish brown, of lighter or darker, sometimes approaching black. It is more or less translucent if held between the eye and a strong light. When it exhibits angular lines of lighter colour, it is called oriental Agate, and often met with in the gold and Diamond mines in the East Indies.

48.

Onyx,

A stone found in the East Indies, exhibiting layers of two or more colours strongly contrasted, as banded Jasper, Chalcedony, &c. particularly the latter, when it is marked with white, and stratified with opaque and translucent lines; but the oriental Onyx is considered a substance consisting of two or more layers or bands, of distinct and different colours. A Sard or Sardoine, having a layer of white upon it, would be called an Onyx, and according to the number of layers, it would be distinguished as an Onyx with three or more bands. Some of the antique engravings are upon Onyxes of five bands.

49.

Oriental Agate,

A variety of Cholcedony, a genus of semi-pellucid, of an even, regular, and hot tabrelated texture, variegated with different colours dispersed in the form of mists and clouds.

50.

Boopthalmus, or Eye Onyx,

An oriental Agate, with large circles in it, bearing some resemblance to the eye of an ox, from which similarity it derives its name.

51.

Sun Stone,

Is a rich variety of Avanturine, which reflects a bright flame colour; it is a siliceous substance, and owes its peculiar beauty to the arrangements of its particles, or the dispersion of minute specks of Mica or ferruginous Quartz. It is rare, and much valued by connoisseurs.

52.

The Cat's Eye,

Is a very singular and beautiful stone, considered to be a variety of felspar, and somewhat approaching to the Opal, in having a bright included colour, which seems to be lodged deep in the body of the stone, and shifts about as it is moved in various directions; but it differs from the Opal in all other particulars, especially in its want of the great variety of colours seen in that gem: it is naturally smooth and polished, has several colours, pale, brown, white, green, yellowish, or reddish brown, and a variety of rare occurrence is dark green, which exhibits more strongly, and in greater perfection, the same characters, is much more valued and highly prized. They are found in the East and West Indies, likewise in Europe, the island of Borneo produces some very fine specimens, and there are many found in the sands and rivers of New Spain and Bohemia.

53.

Moon Stone,

Is a beautiful translucent substance of a bluish white colour, it reflects a strong light, which appears upon the surface of the stone, and agreeably contrasting with the pale celestial hue, shifts about, as it is moved in various directions, like the Cat's Eye.

54.

Mocha Stone,

Is somewhat of the Agate kind, of a clear horny grey, with delineations of figures representing mosses, shrubs, and branches in black, red, and brown, in the substance of the stone. They are from the East Indies and other parts.

55.

Jasper,

Is a semi-pellucid stone, found of various colours, in the East Indies.

56.

Cornelians,

Are often extremely beautiful, and much esteemed as a variety of fine Mocha stones, Agates, and Jaspers, but they are not ranked among the precious stones.

57.

Coral Red and White,

Is a certain shoot from the rocks, in the form of a Sub-marine plant. They are found very plentiful at Leghorn and different parts.

58

Malachite,

A green Mineral, from the copper ores in Siberia, and various parts of Rusia, it resembles in colour the leaf of the mallow, and looks well in coloured Jewellery.

59.

Lapis Lazuli,

Is a copper ore of an elegant blue, variegated with clouds of white and veins of a shining gold colour, and is found in detached lumps. To it artists are indebted for their beautiful Ultramarine.

60.

Crystals,

The finest are from the Brazils, of a transparent substance, and fine ones are as clear as rock water, but of different

shades, some very good specimens are found in Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall, and other parts of England, and few are superior to these found at Harrogate, called Harrogate Diamonds.

61.

Amber,

Is a yellow transparent substance, of a Topaz colour, and susceptible of a fine polish; some are opaque, of a whitish yellow, called Fat Amber, found in the Baltic, on the coasts of Prussia. By heat, or friction when rubbed on any woollen substance, it becomes electric, and may be distinguished by this property.

62.

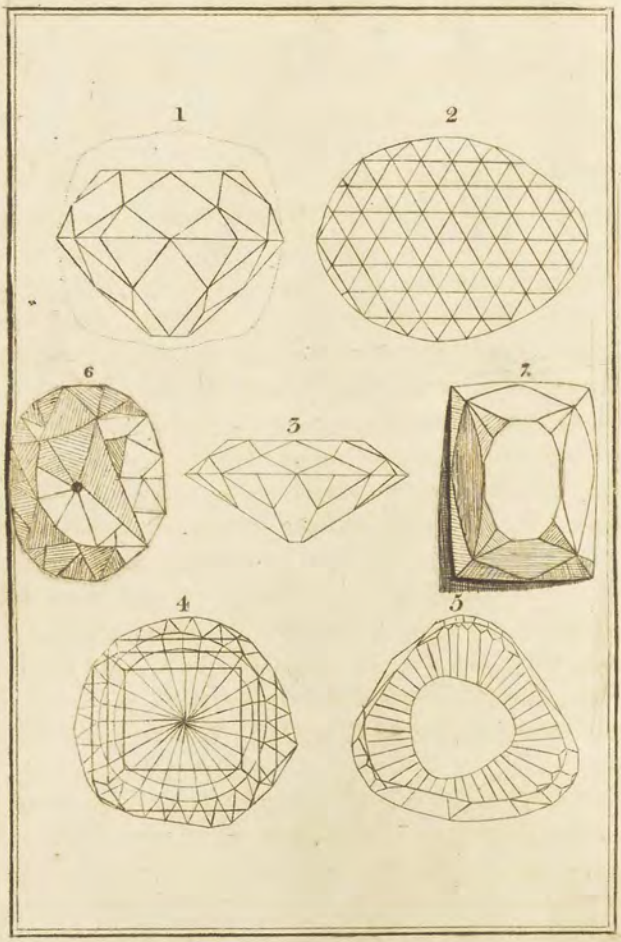
Labrador,

A curious species of felt Spar, which exhibits all the colours of a peacock's tail and breast. It was discovered some years ago by the Moravians, who have a colony among the Esquimaux, in Labrador; when held in the light in various positions, it discovers a diversity of colours, such as the blue of Lapis Lazuli, grass green, apple green, pea green, and sometimes but more seldom, citron yellow. There is beautiful large specimens to be seen in the British Museum; the fine variety is from Ceylon.

63.

Abraxas,

Is an antique stone, with the word Abraxas engraven on it; they are various sizes, and frequently in the cabinets of the curious. There is a fine one in the Abbey of St. Genevieve, which has occasioned much speculation; generally they are brought from Egypt, and are of some use for explaining the antiquities of that country.


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AN ACCOUNT OF
EXTRAORDINARY LARGE DIAMONDS,
And Coloured Stones, &c. &c.

The largest uncut Diamond ever known in the world, is that belonging to the House of Braganza, which still remains uncut. An individual who has seen it, gives us the following account. "When Prince Regent of Portugal, afterwards Don John VI. arrived at the Brazils, in 1808, a negro from Minas Gerais contrived to send him a letter, desiring to present, in person, a large Diamond, which he had found: the Prince ordered the Captain General to allow the negro to proceed to Court, with an escort of soldiers; in a few months the negro arrived, and presented the Diamond, remarking at the same, that it was the largest ever found in the Brazils. The Regent granted him his freedom, and a pension for life for himself and family." He describes this Diamond as resembling a darkish yellow pebble, about the size of a pullet's egg, somewhat kidney shaped, rather oblong, and a little concave on one side. The lapidaries in the Brazils, valued it at one million pounds sterling. It is represented to us as being a little polished on one part, to shew its properties.

One of the largest manufactured Diamonds, is that mentioned by Tavernier, as being in the possession of Auzeng Zeb, the Great Mogul, of a fine rose colour its form is an oval somewhat resembling an egg; being weighed in its natural state by Tavernier, was found to be 793 carats, and when recut, according to the same Traveller, its weight was 297¼ carats, it was probably facetted all round in rose facets, as it does not state that it was brilliantly cut. This magnificent gem was discovered

about the year 1550, in the mine of Colore, in Bengal, not far to the East of Golconda; it has been valued at £624962. In the same mines where this Diamond was found, there were sixty thousand vassels at work; and also in the washings at the same date, a great number of Diamonds were found in the mines, weighing from ten to forty Carats.

There is also another in his possession, of a rose Colour, the weight of which is not exactly known, the value of it is supposed to be fifty or sixty thousand pounds.

The same Potentate also possesses a most beautiful Oriental Topaz, of a pure yellow, or gold, or straw colour, and quite perfect, weighing 157 carats, and valued at some thousands of pounds. In his crown is the largest and finest Emerald known it was found by Prince Acbar.

Tarvenier mentions 108 Rubies in the throne of the Great Mogul, from 100 to 200 carats in weight.

The Rajah of Mattan, in the island of Borneo, possesses a very large Diamond of the finest water, in which place it was found; it weighs 367 carats, is an oblong shape with an indented hollow near the smaller end, and is of a blueish metallic lustre. Those who are permitted to see it are not allowed to touch it; this magnificent gem is brought on a gold salver for inspection!!

Though the possession of it has occasioned numerous wars, it has been more than a century in the possession of the Mattan Family; many years ago, the governor of Batavia sent a Mr. Stewart, to ascertain the weight, quality, and value of this superb Diamond, and to endeavour to purchase it; and in his mission, he was accompanied by the Sultan of Pontiana; after examining it, Mr. Stewart offered 150000 dollars for the said Diamond, the sum to which he was limited, and in addition to this sum, two large war brigs with their guns and ammunition, together with a certain number of great guns, and a considerable quantity of powder and shot. The Rajah however it appears refused to despoil his family of so rich an inheritance, to which the Malays indeed superstitiously attach the miraculous power of curing all

kinds of diseases, by means of the water in which the Diamond is dipped, and with it they believe the fortune of the family is connected.

A remarkable large Diamond is in the possession of the Indian Prince, Rungcet Singh, it is one inch and a half in length, an inch in breadth, and rises half an inch from its gold settings. Its weight is 280 carats, and was the boast of the Hindoos, that it belonged to their Mythological Heroes.

A large Brazillian Diamond was found in the year 1771, and weighed 138½ carats, it was found near Rio Abite, by a negro slave, who received his liberty, and an annual pension of 250 dollars.

The history of the Diamond which studs the sceptre of Russia, under the eagle at the top, is not a little remarkable. It weighs 179 carats, is the size of a pigeon's egg, and of a flattened oval form, it is a faultless and perfect gem, and without a flaw of any kind. This beautiful Diamond formed one of the eyes of a Malabarian Idol, named Scheringham, a French grenadier, who had deserted from the Indian service, contrived so well as to become one of the priests of that Idol, from which he had the opportunity to steal its eye; he then joined the English at Tritchinopoly, from thence he went to Madras. The captain of an East India vessel bought it for £2000. afterwards a Jewish merchant gave seventeen or eighteen thousand pounds sterling for it, and from whom it was purchased by a Greek Merchant named Gregory Suffras who offered it for sale at Amsterdam, in the year 1766, and the late Prince Orloff made this aquisition, (as he himself told Mr. Magellan, a Diamond merchant of London) for his sovereign, the Empress, Catharine of Russia, who seems to have bought it for £90000. an annuity of £4000. and a patent of nobility. It was sent to England to be recut in the form it is at present, and the expense in cutting was immense.

The figure or model of this Diamond, and other extraordinary sized Diamonds, may be had at the authors, and are to be seen in the British Museum.

Russia has several large Diamonds, independent of that which adorns the Imperial Sceptre; one of these is valued at £369800. There is also a large Table Diamond belonging to the Imperial Treasury.

The Pitt, or Regent Diamond, was purchased by Thos. Pitt, Esq. when governor of Fort St. George, Madras, about the year 1706, who obtained it for about £20000. the sum of £80000. and upwards having been asked for it at first; its weight was 410 carats in its natural state, he had it cut in England in a Brilliant of a fine form. The cutting and polishing this beautiful gem occupied above two years, the whole expense of which is said to have fallen little short of £3000. The fragments which were split or sawn off, were valued at some thousands of pounds, it weighed when recut, 136½ carats, and may justly be deemed the finest brilliant in Europe. By calculation, it is found to be worth considerably more than the sum paid for it, and in 1791, a committee of Jewellers valued it at above £400000.

This magnificent Diamond was purchased by the Regent Duke of Orleans, for Louis XV. then a minor, in the year 1717, for £135000. five thousand pounds it is supposed were expended in the negociation, delivery &c. &c.

The kings of France wore this superb Diamond in their hats. Napoleon Buonaparte had it fixed in the pommel of his sword.

This Diamond, it has been stated, was found in Malacca, in the famous mine of Porteal, in the kingdom of Golconda; it is somewhat round, an inch broad, 1 ⅛ of an inch long, and three fourths of an inch thick.

In the Journal des Savans, for July 1774, p. 553 is inserted an extract from a letter of a French missionary, to the following effect:—that one of the principal Diamonds of the crown of

France, and which was purchased of an Englishman, was one of the eyes of the God Jagrenat, a famous Idol placed in a pagoda, at Chandernager, in Bengal; that the said Idol, Jagrenat, had since continued with only one eye; and moreover, that the French had done all they could to blind him entirely, but have not succeeded, since it was better guarded.

Another magnificent Diamond which adorns the crown Jewels of France, is the Sance Diamond, so called from Nicholas De Harlia De Sanci, once its owner; it weighs 55½ carats, valued at £25000. and is a remarkably fine Brilliant. A singular history appertains to this Diamond, formerly belonging to Charles the Bold, the last Duke of Burgundy, who wore it in his cap at the battle of Nancy, where his army was totally routed, and he himself killed, in the year 1477: this Diamond was found among the spoils of the battle, by a Swiss soldier, and by him sold to a French gentleman named Sance, whose family preserved this Diamond for nearly a century, until the period when Henry III. of France, after having lost his throne, employed a descendant of this family, who was commandant of the Swiss troops in his service, to proceed to Switzerland for the purpose of recruiting his forces in that country; and having no pecuniary resources at command, he persuaded the same gentleman to borrow of his family the Sanci Diamond, in order to deposit it with the Swiss Government, as security for the payment of the troops; accordingly, the Diamond was dispatched by a confidential domestic, who disappeared, and could no where be heard of for a great length of time; at last, however, it was ascertained that he had been attacked by banditti, and assassinated: such confidence had his master in the prudence and probity of his servant, that he caused a strict search to be made, and at length discovered the place of his burial, and had the corpse disinterred, when the Diamond was found in his stomach, he having swallowed it when attacked by the robbers. The Baron De Sance subsequently disposed of this Diamond to James II. of England, then residing

at St. Germains; it came afterwards into the possession of Louis XIV. and Louis XV. andnow remains among the crown Jewels of France. Louis XIV. and XV. wore it at their coronations.

This Diamond is of a pear shape, and of the most beautiful water, weighs 55½ carats, and has remained in Europe for the last four centuries. There is also belonging to the crown Jewels of France, the largest and most beautiful coloured Brilliant, of a rich sky blue, stated to weigh 67⅛ carats, and estimated at half a million of livres.

There was a fine blue Diamond, in the possession of the late Mr. Greville.

The Pigott Diamond, is a Brilliant of great surface both in table and girdle, but is considered not to be of sufficient depth; its weight 47½ carats: this beautiful gem was valued at £40000. it was brought to England by Earl Pigott, when governor of India. In 1801, it was made the subject of a public lottery, it then became the property of several young men, who possessed the fortunate number amongst them, and who put it up to public auction, that each of the lucky individuals might have their equal shares; and it was accordingly sold, by Mr. Christie, of Pall-Mall, for about £10000. to a Jeweller at the West End of London; it was again disposed of, and passed into the possession of Messrs. Rundell and Bridge, of Ludgate-Hill. It is said to have been sold to the Pacha of Egypt, for £30000. It is a Brilliant of the first water, and ranks amongst the finest in Europe.

Coloured Diamonds of a large size are comparatively few in number: the Maximilian, or Austrian Diamond, we are informed by Tavernier, that this Diamond has slight hue of a citron colour, it weighs 139½ carats, and is worth at least 193520 guineas; its form is oblong, and cut in Rose, and has been in the family ever since the Emperor of that name. This Diamond formerly belonged to one of the Grand Dukes of

Tuscany, who came possessed of it by purchase, and it was for a long time preserved in the family of the Medici, but ultimately fell into the hands of the Emperor of Germany. This Diamond, at the coronation of the Emperor and Empress of Austria, in 1836, was exposed to public view; it is called the Grand Duke of Tuscany,

Another in Germany, nearly the same weight, is estimated to be worth £156682.

Robert de Burguen says, that the Grand Turk has another the same size, but does not mention the weight or value; and there was at Bisnagar two large Diamonds, one 250 the other 240 carats weight.

George the IV.'s Diamond is of a most elegant, rich, and splendid Sapphire, blue colour, of great beauty and rariety, it weighs 44 carats, and was purchased by his late Majesty, George the IV. from Mr Eliason, an eminent Diamond Merchant in London, it was valued at £30000. it formed the chief ornament in the crown at the Coronation. Mr. Eliason also possessed another of a superlatively blue colour, as rich as the above, weighing 29½ carats, which may be considered matchless, and I have very good authority for stating, that this magnificent Diamond was sold for £18000. and upwards, to the king of Holland.

Mr. Eliason likewise sold a fine brilliant, of 34 carats, set in a ring, to Napoleon Buonaparte for £8000. which he wore on the day of his marriage with the Empress Josephine. It was not, however, a Diamond of the first class. Holland has a fine Brilliant of 36 carats, valued at £10368. and stated to be a conical shape, and was for some time in the possession of an eminent Jeweller in the city of London.

The Nassuc Diamond is of a fine lustre, but not of an agreeable form; it is of a triangular shape, and is cut and polished so as to retain the greatest possible weight, but it exhibits none of those qualities it would so proudly display, if it had been well proportioned. This Diamond was among the spoils which were captured by the combined armies under the command of the Marquis of Hastings, in the British conquest of India, and formed part of what is generally termed the Deccan booty, from its being taken in that part of India, which is designated the Deccan. This magnificent Diamond, which weighs 89¾ carats, was valued at £30000. A description of this celebrated Diamond had been forwarded to India, Turkey, and all parts of the globe for sale. On the 20th of July, 1837, it was finally sold by public auction, by Mr. Sharp, at Willis' Rooms, St. James', by order of the trustees of the Deccan prize money, and it fetched no more than £7200. and was afterwards sold to the Marquis of Westminster, with the magnificent Ear-rings that were sold at the same sale, for £11000. Those Ear-rings were presented by the Nabob of Arcot, to the late Queen Charlotte, and are supposed to be the finest in the world.

The Arcot Diamonds are large, and of great beauty, and formerly the property of the late Queen Charlotte, and were sold by direction of her Majesty's Executors at this auction.

The first lot was a spread Brilliant Drop, weighing 79¼ grains, £1180.

Spread Brilliant Drop, 55½ grains, £1180.

A large oblong Brilliant, 151¼ grains, £2800.

A Pair of Brilliant Ear-rings, 223½ grains, supposed to be the finest in the world, £11000.

A Brilliant Necklace, consisting of 36 Collets, £1600.

A Pair of fine Brilliant Top and Drop Ear-rings, the Drops 86¼ grains, £2500.

A Brilliant Necklace, £2050.

A fine Pearl Necklace, with Brilliant Clasp, £535.

A Pair of spread Brilliant Drops, weighing 60½ grains, £720.

A curious Drop, shaped Brilliant, weighing 49 grains, £450. formerly in the St. Esprit, belonging to Louis XVI.

Fine Brilliant Drops, weighing 100½ grains, £1775. formerly belonging to Marie Antoinette.

A magnificent Rose Diamond, 63 grains, £1300. formerly belonging to the Sultan Selim.

A fine Brilliant Drop, 108 grains, £2100. formerly belonging to Napoleon Buonaparte.

A fine Round Brilliant, 125½ grains, £3500.

A fine lozenge shape Brilliant, 62 grains, £700.

A Pearl Necklace, £850.

The following articles were sold at the same time:—

A beautiful Turkish Dagger, richly enamelled, mounted with Brilliants and Rubies, and a fine large Emerald at the top, £800.

A fine Sapphire Brooch, set round with Brilliants, weighing 75½ carats, £493.

A Pair of Brilliant Ear-rings, the Drops weighing 56½ grains, £750.

A Clustre Brilliant Necklace, with large Brilliants between, £860.

A Pair of Top and Drop Emerald Ear-rings, Drops weighing 77¼ carats, £465.

Two Pairs of Brilliant Top and Drop Ear-rings, one pair 54 grains, and the other pair 26 grains, £850.

A single Stone Brilliant Ring, £160.

The Royal Family of Portugal, are immensely rich in Diamonds. Those in the treasury of the Brazils, are beyond doubt the most superb of any crown possessions, either in ancient or modern times. Several are estimated at some millions of pounds. There is one in the rough state, which weighs above an ounce troy, it has a small part broken off, which was done by the man who found it, who, ignorant of what stone it was, struck it with a hammer on an anvil. There are many party

coloured Diamonds in the Royal Collection. At the Brazils, there are two large slabs of Diamonds, each an inch superfices, and one eight of an inch thick. The river Albaite, from whence these pieces come, has produced a Diamond of an octahedral form, which weighs seven-eights of an ounce troy. In the treasury, is the beautiful Portugal round Brilliant, the Slave Diamond, and others; likewise Blue Diamonds, but of an inferior size, generally impure, and with flaws.

In the Crown Regalia of Hungary, which is preserved in an iron chest, in the arsenal of the citadel of Ofen, there does not appear to be any Diamonds. Here, however, is the identical crown worn by Stephen, 800 years ago, and has been continually watched by two sentinels. The Crown is of pure gold, and weighs nine marks six ounces. The precious stones, &c. consist of fifty-three Sapphires, fifty Rubies, one Emerald, and three hundred and thirty-eight Pearls. The Imperial Sceptre resembles a mace in form, and is ornamented with a tip of crystal, set in solid gold. No sovereign of Hungary is legally invested with royal power and dignity, until the diadem has been seated on his brow. It is shewn to the populace, three days prior to, and three days after the coronation.

King John VI. possessed a Brazilian Cane, the handle of which is wrought gold; there is a beautiful Brilliant surmounting its summit, and cut in the form of a pyramid, valued at about £30000. The Tassels consist of numerous orders, attached to variously coloured Ribbons, intermixed with Brilliants.

The Buttons on the Silken Stole of King Joseph I. of Portugal, are composed of twenty fine Brilliants, estimated at £100000. It is always introduced at Court. The finest and largest Diamonds are always retained, to enlarge their magnificent caskets of Jewellery, and the government consign the rest for sale to the Brazilian ambassador.

The King of Portugal has another fine Diamond, weighing 215 carats, and is worth £369800.

A Green Brilliant, of exquisite beauty, and great size, but irregular in form, is worn by the King of Saxony, when in court dress, as a button or fastening to the plume of his hat. There are many individuals who possess Brilliants of considerable magnitude, from 20 to 30 carats; and a Diamond in its natural state has lately been imported, that weighs about 80 carats.

The Dress of Henry VIII. and his Queen, on their procession to the Tower, previous to coronation, are described by Hall:— "His grace wared in his uppermost apparell, a robe of crimsyn velvet furred with armyns: his jacket or cote of raised gold; the placard embrodered with diamonds, rubies, emeracedes, great pearles, and other riche stones; a great banderike about his necke of large bolasses. The Queen was apparalled in white satyn, embrodered; her haire hangying down to her backe, of a very great length, bewteful and goodly to beholde; and on her hedde a coronall, set with many riche orient stones."

The Hornsby Family is in possession of a fine Brilliant, which weighs 36 carats, and is worth about £8000.

There are three most beautiful and large Rubies at Antwerp, termed The Three Brothers.

The Princess of Orange has a most superb Oriental Amethyst Necklace, Ear-rings, &c. presented by her late brother, the Emperor Alexander, valued at some thousands of pounds; also, a most magnificent collection of Diamonds and Coloured Gems. Most of these were stolen a few years ago, (which may be in the recollection of many,) part of them were traced to America, and at last the suspected person was brought to Liverpool, and underwent an examination, but they could not find any thing on

him; he had, however, in his possession, a curious cane, which one of the magistrates supecting might contain some of the treasure, they examined it, and found a joint which unscrewed, when it was found to contain most of the Gems, which had been broken out of the settings of the Jewels that were stolen.

Aichstadt, or Eichstadt, the capital of an extensive Bishopric of the same name, in Franconia, situated in a valley on the river Altmul, 30 miles south of Nurenberg.

There is one of the Churches built after the model of that called the Holy Sepulchre, at Jerusalem; and within it is a curious piece of workmanship, called the Sun of the Holy Sacrament. It is of massive gold, of great weight, and is enriched with 350 Diamonds, 1400 Pearls, 200 Rubies, and other precious gems of great value.

Persia has several Diamonds; four large ones of the Rose cut, besides Brilliants; the two principal ones are called, in the hyperbolical language of the East, 'The Mountain of Splendour,' and 'The Sea of Glory,' one computed to be worth £145800, and the other valued at £34318.

The Handle of the Sabre of the Dey of Algiers is said to be resplendent with Diamonds and other precious gems, and his Turban adorned with the most magnificent Brilliants.

A fine Diamond, weighing 101 carats, called the Nazram Diamond, was brought from India by Governor Hastings. It was recut in England, and turned out a most splendid Brilliant, and was presented to our late gracious Queen Charlotte.

The Queen of Spain has a most magnificent Diamond Necklace and Ear-rings, they were reset in France, in 1830, and valued at half a million of francs.

A gentleman lately received a Diamond, in its natural state, from Brazil, about 90 carats, which was cut and polished in England, in an elegantly formed Brilliant, and weighed, when finished only 32 carats. It cost above two hundred pounds in workmanship.

In Burgundy are two fine large Diamonds, called the Lamps of Flanders.

There is an account of a rough Diamond found at Fermanaugh, in Ireland, in the bed of a brook flowing through the above district; it was valued at about eighteen or twenty pounds.

His Excellency Lord Strangford, on his return from the Brazils many years ago, presented his late Majesty, George III. with one of the largest and finest Aquamarines hitherto seen.

There is, in the British Museum, an ancient Roman Gold Ring, with an octahédral Diamond set in it: and in the clasp of the mantle of Charlemagne, still preserved at Paris.

Ardcan, in Asia, on the N. E. coast of the Bay of Bengal, the Palace is very large, and contains seven Idols of cast gold two inches thick, each of a man's height, and covered with Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, Sapphires, and other precious gems of an immense value.

His late Majesty, George IV. was in possession of a most exquisite curiosity, and of great value. The celebrated Peacock which once belonged to Tippoo Saib: the body of this bird is of fine gold, and the plumage is admirably represented by great quantities of precious stones of every description.

The Shah of Persia's Plate. The Shah of Persia possesses the most magnificent service of Plate in the world. It consists

of upwards of 4000 utensils of pure gold, most of which are set with precious stones of every description. Among them are sets of Spoons, Vases, Cups, Jugs, Basons, Dishes, &c.: some of the Cups are so heavy, that when filled, they cannot be lifted with one hand: perhaps the most remarkable portion of the collection is a set of gold spoons, each a foot long; the bowls of these spoons are of wrought gold, and the handles are riehly set with Rubies, and other precious stones of all descriptions, terminated by large Diamonds. The immense size of these spoons, is occasioned by the oriental custom of eating on the ground.

The late Marchioness of Salisbury had, amongst her magnificent collection of Jewels, &c. at Hatfield, a most valuable and extraordinary large oriental Pearl Necklace, of great value. It was given by Edward III. to the celebrated Countess of Salisbury; and, the same Necklace was presented to the family of Cecil, by King Charles II. and was supposed destroyed among all the valuable collection of Jewels, &c. at Hatfield House, in 1835, most of the Diamonds, &c. were completely defaced, and obliged to be repolished; but the Pearls were burnt quite black. I saw most of them myself, in the state in which they were found among the ruins after the fire.

One of the finest Sapphires in Europe, was in the possession of the late Mr. Hope, which weighs 133 carats, and is without any blemish: in perfection this beautiful gem is unrivalled; it is set round with fine Brilliants.

Mr. Hope had also in his possession,a remarkably fine Ruby, of the most enchanting colour, and greatest perfection. This elegant gem has been recut in England, since it came into that gentleman's collection, and may be justly esteemed the finest Ruby in Europe.

The finest Oriental Amethyst in Europe, was also in the collection of Mr. Hope: it is of considerable size, is finely

proportioned, and exceeds an inch in its greatest diameter; it has the peculiarity of transmitting, by day-light, the most beautiful and perfect violet colour, and by candle-light, a decided blue.

The Duchess of Cleveland has, amongst her superb collection of Jewels, a most magnificent and unique Sapphire, supposed to be the largest in Europe; it is a remarkable curious shape, set round with fine large Brilliants.

A beautiful Blue Topaz, of a fine celestial colour, the finest specimen known, was brought, in the rough state, from the Brazils; when cut and polished, it weighed above an ounce and a quarter. This gem, and a fine Yellow Topaz of 80 carats, now adorn the magnificent collection of Mr. Hope.

The Monarchs of Pegu, Siam, and Ava, monopolize Rubies of the greatest beauty, as the Sovereigns of India have done with regard to the largest Diamonds. The finest Ruby in the world is in possession of one of these Potentates, its purity has passed into a proverb, and its worth in Pegu, compared with gold, is said to be inestimable.

The Subah of Deccan, is also in possession of one remarkably fine, which he wears as an Armlet.

The Essex Ring. This Ring, to which an historical and romantic record is attached, as the token, (the sight of which recalling her tenderest feelings, was to act with talismanic power on the Queen, and assure her assent to any request it accompanied,) is an heir-loom in the Warner family, the representative of the elder branch. This Ring is formed of a single Diamond, cut in the shape of a heart: and bears an additional interest as having been the gift of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scotland, to Queen Elizabeth, at the period of her marriage with Lord Darnley, in 1564, when she sent it to her royal rival, together with the following lines, written by Buchanan:—

This gem behold, the emblem of my heart,
From which my cousin's image ne'er shall part;
Clear in its lustre, spotless, does it shine,
As clear, as spotless, as this heart of mine!
What though the stone a greater hardness wears,
Superior firmness still the figure bears.

The fact of Lady Nottingham's treacherous concealing of the Ring confided to her by the condemned Essex, with his pleading for life from his offended sovereign, is too well known to require repetition, as well as the Queen's anguish at Lady Nottingham's death-bed confession. This Ring fell into the possession of King James I. who gave it to Captain Warner, with other marks of distinction, in remuneration of his extensive discoveries in the West Indies, in 1629, and is at present in the possession of Col. Edward Warner.

A unique Pink Diamond Ring, of a most beautiful colour, in a very curious antique setting, which was King Charles the second's, is at present in the possession of the family of Winstanley. This Ring was given to Pendrell, by the King, for his fidelity in rescuing him at his residence, Boscobal Cottage, it being the first place the King took refuge in, when his enemies were in pursuit of him, after his defeat at the battle of Worcester, in 1651.

The Revelation of St. John, chap. xxi. 18—21, will be found the following words about the precious gems.

18 And the building of the wall of it was of Jasper; and the city was pure gold like unto clear glass.

19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was Jasper; the second Sapphire; the third a Chalcedony; the fourth an Emerald;

20 The fifth Sardonyx; the sixth Sardius; the seventh Chrysolite; the eighth Beryl; the ninth Topaz; the tenth Chrysoprasus; the eleventh a Jacinth; the twelfth an Amethyst:

21 And the twelve gates were twelve Pearls; every several gate was of one Pearl; and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

A DESCRIPTION

OF THE

PEARL FISHERY AT CEYLON.

About the end of October, in the year preceding a pearl fishery, when a short interval of fine weather prevails, an examination of the banks takes place; a certain number of boats, under an English superintendant, repair in a body to each bank, and having by frequent diving ascertained its situation, they take from one to two thousand Oysters as a specimen; the shells are opened, and if the Pearls collected from a thousand Oysters be worth three pounds, a good fishing may be expected. The banks or beds of Oysters, are scattered over a space in the Gulph Mandor, extending thirty miles from North to South, and twenty-four from East to West: there are fourteen beds (not all however productive) of which the largest is ten miles long and two broad, the depth of water is from three to fifteen fathoms. The Pearl Oysters in these banks, are all of one species, and of the same form; in shape not very unlike our common English Oyster, but considerably larger, being from eight to ten inches in circumference. The body of the animal is white, fleshy and glutinous: the inside of the shell (the real mother of Pearl) is even brighter and more beautiful than the Pearl itself; the outside smooth and dark coloured. The pearls are most commonly contained in the thickest, and most fleshy part of the Oyster; a single Oyster will frequently contain several Pearls, and one is on record, as having produced one hundred and fifty. The Pearl itself is probably the result of some accidental deposit or extravasation of the liquor secreted by the animal, in the gradual enlargement of its shell; very small in the first instance, but increased by successive layers of Pearly

matter. Sometimes the English government of Ceylon, fishes the banks entirely at its own risk, occasionally the boats are let to many speculators: but most frequently, the right of fishing is sold to one individual, who sub-lets boats to others. The fishing for the season of the year 1804, was let by government to an individual for no less than £120000. at the beginning of March, the fishery commenced, and upwards of two hundred and fifty boats were employed in the fishery alone; these with their crews and divers, completely equipped with every thing necessary to conduct the business of the fishing, come from the different parts of the coast of Coromandel: after going through various ablutions and incantations, and other superstitious ceremonies, the occupants of these boats embark at midnight, guided by pilots, and as soon as they reach the banks, they cast anchor, and wait the dawn of day.

At about seven in the morning, when the rays of the sun begin to emit some degree of warmth, the diving commences. A kind of open scaffolding, formed of oars, and other pieces of wood is projected from each side of the boat, and from it the diving tackle is suspended, with three stones on one side, and two on the other: the diving stone hangs from an oar by a light rope and slip knot, and descends about five feet into the water. It is a stone of fifty-six pounds weight, of a sugar loaf shape, the rope passes through a hole on the top of the stone, above which a strong loop is formed, resembling a stirrup iron, to receive the foot of the diver; the diver wears no clothes, except a slip of calico round his loins, swimming in the water, he takes hold of the rope, and puts one foot into the loop or stirrup on the top of the stone, he remains in this upright position for a little while supporting himself by the motion of one arm, then a basket, formed of a wooden hoop and net-work, suspended by a rope, is thrown into the water to him, and in it he places his other foot; both the ropes of the stone and the basket he holds for a little while in one hand; when he feels himself properly prepared and ready to go down, he grasps his nostrils

with one hand to prevent the water from rushing in, with the other gives a sudden pull at the running knot suspending th stone, and instantly descends; the remainder of the rope fixed to the basket is thrown into the water after him, at the same moment, the rope attached to the stone is in such a position as to follow him of itself: as soon as he touches the bottom, he disentangles his foot from the stone, which is immediately drawn up, and suspended again to the projecting oar in the same manner as before, to be in readiness for the next diver; the diver, arriving at the bottom of the sea, throws himself as soon as possible upon his face, and collects every thing he can get hold of into the basket; when he is ready to ascend, he gives a jerk to the rope, and the persons in the boat, who hold the other end of it, haul it up as speedily as possible, the diver, at the same time, free of every incumbrance, warps up by the rope, and always gets above water a considerable time before the basket; he presently comes up at a distance from the boat, and swims about, or takes hold of an oar, or a rope, until his turn comes to descend again; but he seldom comes into the boat until the labour of the day is over. When a young diver is training to the business, he descends in the arms of a man completely experienced in the art, who takes great care of him, and shews him the manner of proceeding; the pupil at first brings up in his hand a single oyster, a stone, or a little sand, merely to shew that he has reached the bottom; the length of time during which the divers remain under water, is rarely much more than two minutes; yet in this short period, in a ground richly clothed with oysters, an expert diver will often put as many as one hundred and fifty into his basket; there are two divers attached to each stone, so that they go down alternately; the one rests and refreshes while the other plunges. The men, after diving, generally find a small quantity of blood issue from their nose and ears, which they consider as a favourable symptom, and perform the operation with greater comfort after the bleeding has commenced. They seem to enjoy

the labour as a pleasant pastime, and never murmur or complain, unless when the banks contain a scarcity of oysters, though their labours are continued six hours.

When the day is sufficiently advanced, the head pilot makes a signal, and the fleet set sail for the shore, all description of people hasten to welcome their return, and the noise of the crowd is immense: as every boat comes to its own station, and the Oysters are carried into certain paved enclosures on the sea shore, where they are allowed to remain in heaps (of course well guarded) for ten days, that time being necessary to render them putrid, when the Oysters are sufficiently decayed, they are thrown into a large vessel filled with salt water, and left there for twelve hours to soften the putrid substance, the Oysters are then taken up one by one, the shells broken one from another, and washed in the water; those shells which have Pearls adhering to them are thrown on one side, and afterwards handed to clippers, whose business is to disengage the Pearls from the shells with pincers; when all the shells are thrown out, the slimy substance of the Oysters remains, mixed with sand and broken fragments of shells, at the bottom of the vessel. The dirty water is lifted out in buckets, poured into a sack made like a jelly bag, so that no Pearl can be lost, fresh water being then added from time to time, and the whole substance in the vessel continually agitated; the sand and Pearls together are by degrees allowed to sink to the bottom.

As soon as the sand is dry, it is sifted, the large Pearls being conspicuous, are easily gathered, but the separating the small and diminutive (seed Pearls as they are called) is a work of considerable labour. When once separated from the sand, washed with salt water, dried and rendered perfectly clear, they are sorted into classes, according to their sizes, by being passed through sieves: after this a hole is drilled through each Pearl; they are arranged on strings, and are then fit for market.

Pearls have been considered as valuable ornaments from the earliest times, they are mentioned in the book of Job (28 chap.

18 v.) and are often alluded to by the classical writers. In the year 1761, Linnæus discovered the art by which the muscles which are found in many of our own rivers, might be made to produce Pearls ; but we believe it has never been made public.

The muscles found in the river Conway, in Wales, and some of the rivers of Scotland, have not unfrequently produced large and fine coloured Pearls, but not of the fine gloss of the Oriental Pearls. My opinion is, those found in Wales, and Scotland, if they were left to decay as they do at Ceylon, no doubt they would have the same gloss of the Oriental ones.

At London, in 1836, a very fine Pearl was found in a Periwinkle; and in the year 1837, two fine Pearls was also found in two oysters, by a person in London.

There is on record the following process for the purification of Pearls in Ceylon:—A fowl is preserved, and the discoloured Pearls placed among the grains set on the earth for it to eat, the fowl soon swallows the whole, after which and before the Pearls have been in its stomach more than a minute, the throat of the bird is cut, its stomach opened, and the Pearls taken as beautifully white and clear as when they first came from the Oysters.

A DESCRIPTION
OF THE
ENGLISH REGALIA, JEWELS,
And other Relics of the Royal Family of England,
WHICH ARE IN THE JEWEL OFFICE, IN THE TOWER OF LONDON.

THE IMPERIAL CROWN OF ENGLAND,

It is of gold, about fifteen inches in height; the arches, which rise almost to a point, are surmounted with an orb of Brilliants, upon these is placed a Maltese Cross of Brilliants, set transparent, with three fine large oriental Pearls at its extremities, and the arches are wreathed and fringed with Diamonds; four Maltese Crosses, formed of Brilliants, surround the Crown, with four large Diamonds in the intervening spaces; in the centre at the back of the Maltese Cross at the top of the Crown, is the ancient Ruby which was worn at Cressy and Agincourt, by Edward the Black Prince and Henry V. and that of the front is adorned with an unique Sapphire, of a pure colour, more than two inches long, and one inch broad. The Ermine is surmounted by a band of large Diamonds, Emeralds, Sapphires, and Rubies, and under these a fillet of beautiful oriental Pearls.

THE VICTORIA CROWN,

Made expressly for her present Majesty, Victoria I. who was crowned June 28, 1838. The design is allowed to be exceedingly elegant, and is decorated with most magnificent Diamonds and other precious gems of immense value, the former Crown being much too large for the head of her present Majesty. Independent of the gold, velvet, cap, and ermine, this superb Diadem weighs only nineteen ounces ten pennyweights; it measured seven inches in height, from the gold circle to the upper cross, and its diameter at the rims is five inches, The ancient Ruby, the unique Sapphire, and the large British Diamond, were inserted in the above crown for the coronation.

It was exhibited, with various other parts of the Regalia, to thousands of person, at Messrs. Rundell and Bridge's establishment, on Ludgate-Hill, a few days prior to the coronation.

THE ANCIENT IMPERIAL DIADEM,

Of King Edward the Confessor, with the other ancient regalia of this kingdom, were kept in the arched room in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, until the great rebellion, when, in 1542, Harry Martin, by order of the then Parliament, broke open the iron chest in which it was deposited, and sold it, together with the sword and sceptre of St. Edward.

ST. EDWARD'S CHAIR,

Is an ancient seat of solid, hard wood, with back and sides of the same, variously ornamented, on which the Kings of Scotland were formerly crowned, but having been brought from that kingdom by Edward I. 1296, it has ever since remained in Westminster Abbey, and has been the royal chair, in which the succeeding Kings and Queens of this realm have been inaugurated. It is in height six feet seven inches, in breadth at the bottom thirty-eight inches, and in depth twenty-four inches. At nine inches from the ground is a board, supported at the four corners by as many carved lions; and between the seat and this board is enclosed a stone, commonly called Jacob's, or the Fatal Marble Stone, respecting which King Kenneth caused a prophetical verse to be engraved, of which the following is a translation:—

Should fate not fail, where'er this stone is found,
The Scots shall Monarchs of that realm be crown'd.

This is the more remarkable, by its having been fulfilled in the person of King James I.

After the restoration, Charles II. had that Crown made which was worn by all the sovereigns at their coronations.

It is the rich Crown of State worn by the Sovereign in Parliament, is enriched with a large Emerald seven inches in circumference, an exceedingly fine oriental Pearl, and a Ruby of inestimable value, Diamonds, &c.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE OF WALES' CROWN,

These last named Crowns, when the Sovereign goes to the Parliament-House, are carried by the keeper of the Jewel-office, attended by a warder, privately in a coach to Whitehall, where they are delivered to officers appointed to receive them, who with some yeomen of the guard, carry them to the robing-rooms, where the Sovereign, and if there be a Prince at that time, they both robe themselves; the Sovereign wears the Crown upon the head when sitting upon the throne, but that of the Prince of Wales is placed before the Sovereign; as soon as the Sovereign is disrobed, the two Crowns are reconducted to the Tower, by the same persons who brought them.

THE GOLDEN ORB, OR GLOBE,

Put into the Sovereign's right hand before being crowned, and borne in the left, with the Sceptre in the right, upon returning into Westminster Hall, after being crowned. It is about six inches in diameter, edged with Pearls, and enriched with precious stones; on the top is an oriental Amethyst, of a beautiful violet colour, nearly an inch and a half in height, set upon a rich cross of gold, adorned with Diamonds, Pearls, and precious stones; the whole height of the globe, cross, &c. is eleven inches.

THE GOLDEN SCEPTRE, WITH CROSS,

Set upon a large oriental Amethyst of great value, garnished round with Table Diamonds: the handle of the Sceptre is plain, but the pommel is set round with Rubies, Emeralds, and small Diamonds; the top rises into a fleur-de-lis of six leaves, enriched with precious stones, whence issues the mound or ball; the cross is quite covered with precious gems.

THE SCEPTRE,

With a Dove perched upon the top of a small Jerusalem Cross, finely ornamented with Table Diamonds and Jewels of great

value; this emblem was first used by Edward the Confessor, as appears by his seal; the ancient Sceptre was sold with the rest. This now in the Tower was made after the restoration.

SAINT EDWARD'S STAFF,

In length is four feet seven inches and a half, and three inches and three quarters in circumference, all of beaten gold, is carried before the Sovereign at the coronation.

A RICH SALT CELLAR OF STATE,

Presented by the city of Exeter, formed like the square White Tower, exquisitely wrought; it is of fine gold, and used only on the Sovereign's table at the coronation.

THE CUTANA, OR SWORD OF MERCY,

The blade of which is thirty-two inches long, and nearly two broad, without a point, and is borne before the sovereign at the coronation, between the two swords of Justice, spiritual and temporal.

A NOBLE SILVER FONT,

Double gilt, and elegantly wrought, in which the Royal Family are christened.

A LARGE CHASED SILVER FOUNTAIN,

Presented to King Charles II. by the town of Plymouth, very curiously wrought.

QUEEN MARY'S CROWN, GLOBE, AND SCEPTRE,

With the Diadem her Majesty wore in proceeding to her coronation with his Majesty King William.

AN IVORY SCEPTRE,

With a Dove on the top, made for the Queen of James II. the garniture of which is of gold, and the Dove on the top gold, enamelled with white.

THE GOLDEN SPURS, AND THE ARMILLAS OR BRACELETS

For the wrists, are very antique, but not unlike those which are worn at the present day ; there is a pair of very unique sandals and buskins.

THE AMPULLA OR GOLDEN EAGLE,

Finely engraved and chased, which holds the holy oil at the coronation ; the golden spoon into which the Archbishop pours the oil. These are pieces of great antiquity. The golden eagle, including the pedestal, is about nine inches high, and the wings expanded about seven inches, the whole weighs about ten ounces ; the head of the Eagle screws off about the middle of the neck, which is made hollow for holding the holy oil ; and when the King is anointed, the oil is poured into the spoon out of the bird's beak.

There are in the Jewel office, besides those commonly shown, all the Crown Jewels worn by Princes and Princesses at the coronations, and a vast variety of curious old plate, and other unique articles.

When the notorious Blood attempted to steal the Regalia from the Tower, on the 9th of May, 1671, it appeares no gem of any consequence or value was eventually lost. A large Pearl, a fine Diamond, and a number of small stones was bulged from the Crown in this robustious struggle, but both the former and several of the latter were picked up and recovered. The Balais Ruby, which had been broken off the Sceptre, was found in his accomplice (Parrot's) pocket. In 1836, the keeper, in clearing out some secret place in the Jewel Office, found a royal sceptre, equal in splendour and value to the others which are exhibited. It is imagined, from the dceayed state of the case, it was enclosed in, that it must have been thrown into that neglected corner in the confusion of Blood's well known attempt to steal the crown Jewels, nearly a century and a half ago.

DESCRIPTION
OF THE
REGALIA OF SCOTLAND.

The Regalia, properly so called, consists of three articles, the Crown, the Sceptre, and the Sword of state, with which was found, in the same chest, a silver rod or mace, now ascertained to be the badge of the Lord Treasurer of Scotland. The form of the Crown is remarkably elegant; the lower part consists of two circles, the undermost much broader than that which rises over it, both are composed of the purest gold, and the uppermost is surmounted and relieved by a range of fleur-de-lis interchanged with crosses *fleuree*, and knobs or pinnacles of gold, with large Oriental Pearls at the top, which produce a very rich effect. The under and broader circle is adorned with twenty-two precious stones, betwixt which of each is interposed an Oriental Pearl, the gems are Rubies, Emeralds, Topazes, Amethysts, and Jaycinths, they are not cut according to the present fashion, but are set in the plain ancient style of Jewellers' work. The small circle which surmounts the under one, is set with Diamonds and Sapphires alternately, and its upper verge terminates in the range of crosses, fleur-de-lis, and knobs of gold, set with Pearls, as described above.

These two circles thus ornamented, seem to have formed the original diadem or crown of Scotland, until the reign of James the V. who added two imperial arches, rising from the circles, crossing each other, and closing at the top in a mound of gold, which is again surmounted by a large cross *patee*, ornamented with Pearls and bearing the characters J. R. V. these additional arches are attached to the crown by tacks of gold, there is some inferiority in the quality of the metal.

The Tiara, or bonnet, worn under the crown, was anciently of purple, but is now crimson velvet, turned up with ermine, a

change first adopted in the year 1695, The Tiara is adorned with four superb Oriental Pearls of great value, set in pure gold, and fastened in the velvet which appears between the arches.

The crown measures about nine inches in diameter, twenty-seven inches in circumference, and about six inches and a half in height, from the bottom of the lower circle to the top of the cross.

The Jewels in the crown are not known to have been valued individually, but the estimated value, at the present, is about £50000.

The whole appearance of this ancient type of sovereignty does great credit to the skill and taste of the age in which it was formed; of its antiquity (meaning that of the original diadem) no precise evidence can be produced, but many circumstances induce us to refer to the glorious reign of Robert the Bruce.

THE SCEPTRE,

At the same time, James the V. altered the form of the crown, he caused the present Sceptre to be made. It is a slender and elegant rod of silver, about thirty-nine inches in length, the stalk being of an hexagonel form, divided by three ornamental rings, and surmounted by an antique capital of embossed leaves, supporting three small figures, representing the Virgin Mary, Saint Andrew, and Saint James; the ornamented niches in which these small figures are placed, are again surmounted by a crystal globe, of two inches and a quarter in diameter; and yet again by a small oval globe, topped with an Oriental Pearl. Under the figures are placed the letters J. R V. it is probable that James the V. had the Sceptre made, as well as the crown altered, when he was in France, in 1536, at least the workmanship greatly excels what we should have expected in Scotland during that period.

THE SWORD OF STATE,

This sword had been presented, many years before to James the IV. of Scotland, by Pope Julias the II. together with a purple hat,

flowered with gold ; the workmanship of the sword is of a fanciful and elegant description, resembling the style of Benvenuto Cellini and belongs to the period when the art of sculpture was reviving in Rome. The whole Sword is about five feet long, of which the handle and pommel occupy fifteen inches. They are of silver gilt, and elaborately chased and ornamented; the cross of the Sword is represented by two dolphins, whose heads join at the handle : the scabbard is of crimson velvet, covered with filagree work and silver ; the prevailing ornament being oak leaves and acorns, which was the emblem of Julius II. in subsequent lists of King James' Regalia. There are two swords of honour repeatedly mentioned, but only the sword presented by Pope Julius, in 1536, is now in existence.

The Royal Robes were of purple velvet, lined with ermine, with a kirtle of the same materials, and trimming. The Crown was worn by the King on solemn occasions, and others placed before him on a cushion. When laws were passed in the Scottish Parliament, they were presented by the Chancellor to the King, who ratified them with the sceptre, in token of royal assent. This ceremony, after the accession of James to the English Crown, was performed by a Lord High Commissioner, invested for that purpose, with the delegated state of Viceroy.

The Regalia of Scotland, was deposited in the chest, in the Crown-room, in the castle of Edinbro', by the Commissioners of the Treasury, on the 26th of March, 1707, where they remained for more than a century. On the 28th of October, 1817, his late Majesty George IV. then Prince Regent, considering that all political reasons, for withdrawing from the people of Scotland the sight of the ancient symbols of her independence, had long ceased to exist, was pleased to give directions for removing the mystery, which had so long hung upon the existence of the Scottish Regalia. A commission was accordingly issued to the Officers of State in Scotland, and other persons in public situations, directing them to open the Crown room and chest, and to report the state in which the Regalia of Scotland should be

found. On February 4th, 1818, in virtue of the warrant, the Commissioners assembled for the purpose of carrying it into execution; and having read their warrant, proceeded to enter the Crown room, and to force open the lid of the great chest, no key to which had been any where found. To the great joy of all present, the Regalia were discovered lying in the chest, in the very state in which they had been deposited there, in 1707; with the Sword of State and Sceptre, also was found, another rod or mace of Silver, with a globe at the top, which proves to be the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland's mace of office. Upon the discovery of the Regalia, the royal flag was hoisted upon the castle, and greeted by shouts of a numerous crowd assembled on the Calton-Hill, who took a deep interest in the success of the researches which had been instituted, concerning the existence and safety of these venerable memorials.

The Commissioners having reported the success of these proceedings to the Prince Regent, his Royal Highness was pleased to give directions at once for the safe custody of the Regalia, and for gratifying the laudable curiosity of the Scottish public, who might desire to see the external symbols of that sovereignty, under which their Fathers had so frequently distinguished themsevles. The custody of the Regalia was therefore committed to the officers of state, by a warrant under the great Seal, with power to them to appoint a deputy keeper, and yeoman keepers of the Regalia, and to establish regulations under which with suitable precautions for their safety, as the Regalia might be exhibited to the public; accordingly, Capt. Adam Ferguson being named by a commissioner from the officers of state, to the office of deputy keeper of the Regalia, entered into a bond for the faithful discharge of his duty. His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, and the Right Hon. the Lord Commissioner of the Jury Court, being his sureties to that effect.

The crown room has been handsomely fitted up for the exhibition of the Regalia, which were open for inspection on the

26th of May, 1819, and the yeoman keepers attend upon visitors, in the dress used by the body-guards of the ancient Kings of Scotland.

It only remains to observe, that the Regalia of Scotland had suffered very little injury, considering the extraordinary vicissitudes to which they were subjected Two or three sockets in the crown, which had once been filled with precious stones like those to which they correspond, are now empty, and three counterfeit stones, or doublets, may be remarked among those which remain in the settings; the head of the sceptre has been bent a little on one side, and seems to have been broken, and imperfectly repaired at some early period; the handle and scabbard of the sword of state of which the work is very fragile and delicate, and also somewhat broken and damaged, but it is remarkable that these very imperfections in the crown, sceptre, and sword, are particularly noticed in the act of the privy Council, dated so early as the 10th of July, 1621, when the Regalia were narrowly examined, for the purpose of discharging the heir of Sir Gideon Murray, of Elibank, of the keeping of the said honours, which had been in his Father's possesssion as deputy treasurer of Scotland.

The description is very precise, and deserves to be quoted at length. It bears that "Thay (the Lords of the Privy Council) sighted the saidis honnouris and remarkit the same verie narrowlie and fand that the crowne had in the neder circle nyne garnittis, and four jasientis, three counterfute emeraulds, four am at ystis, twentie-twa pearle: abone the neder circle sax small thine triangle diamontis, ten small triangle challoms filled with blew amalyne in steade of stones, twa small emptie challoms, having no thing in tham bot the black tent, and twa challoms with twa flatt quhyte stones with the boddum upmost, nixt abone the small challoms nynetene grite ann small ray pearle, and within the Roise, betwix the Flour de Luce thretty-five pearle, sum less sum more, with ten quhyte stones in the middis thairof, in the four quartaris of the bonett of the crowne four pearle sett in four

pecis of garniseene of gold enamald and in the croce abone the crowne, ane amatist and aught pearle, and that the sceptour was in three pecis, haveing ane pearle in the top, and ane crystell globe benethe the heade quhairof hes been brokin, and mendit with wyre and the siwerd had the plumbett bersit and brokin with ane voyde place in everie syde thairof and the scabart thairof riven bersit and brokine wanting sum peecis out of it."

The officers of state, in appointing these royal emblems to be cleaned and furbished, have, with the taste and judgment which was to have been expected, abstained from ordering any repairs or other alterations to be made, by which their form could in the slightest degree be changed from that which they presented upon being first discovered, so that the Scottish public may be assured that the honours of the Scottish kingdom are now presented to their inspection, in the very same state in which they have existed for several centuries. The feelings with which we now view these venerable national relics, are of a nature less agitating than those of our forefathers, to whom they conveyed the remembrance, that Scotland had lost her place among the independent states of Europe, and that her national consequence was merged in the wealth and power of an ancient rival; we, who now reap the slow, but well-ripened fruits of the painful sacrifice made at the union, can compare with calmer judgment, the certain blessings of equality of laws and rights, extended commerce, improved agriculture, individual safety, and domestic peace, with the vain though generous boast of a precarious national independence, subject to all the evils of domestic faction and delegated oppression. With such feelings we look upon the Regalia of Scotland.

Venerating at once the gallantry of our forefathers, who with unequal means, but with unsubdued courage, maintained the liberties and independence of Scotland through ten centuries of almost ceaseless war, and blessing the wise decrees of Providence, which after a thousand years of bloodshed, have

at length indissolubly united two nations, who, speaking the same language, possessing the same religion, and united in the same interests, seem formed by God and nature to compose one people.

There is a valuable addition made to the ancient Regalia of Scotland, by his late Majesty King William IV. who has been graciously pleased to transmit to Scotland, for the purpose of being deposited along with Regalia, a beautiful massive golden Collar of the Garter, set with Rose Diamonds, and an enamelled George, left to his late Majesty George IV. by the deceased Cardinal of York; an ancient Rose Diamond, badge of St. Andrew; and a fine Sapphire Ring, set round with Brilliants, being Charles the first's coronation Ring. The former of those Jewels, viz. the golden Collar, weighs about three pounds, was presented to King James VI. by his Queen, and worn by that monarch.

These Jewels were presented in December, 1830, by Sir Adam Ferguson, deputy keeper of the Regalia, to whom his late Majesty King William IV. was pleased to entrust these valuable relics, when lately in London, to the Lord Advocate and Lord Justice Clerk, being a quorum of the Officers of State of Scotland, in presence of several witnesses, and were by them deposited in the Crown-room, along with the ancient Regalia of Scotland.

COMMERCIAL HISTORY OF ROUGH DIAMONDS.

With the circumstance that led to the discovery of Diamonds in India, we are totally unacquainted, but in regard to the discovery of the gem in the Brazils, the following account, which has been related by individuals in the country, to whom it had descended by tradition, from the first adventurers, will be found generally correct.

About a century ago, that part of the Brazils called Terro-de-Frio, was explored for gold; and in searching for this precious metal, some singular substances, resembling pebbles were occasionally met with, in regular geometrical forms; the peculiar hue and lustre of some particular specimens attracted the notice of the negroes, who showed them to their masters, as pretty shining pebbles, which were preserved apart whenever met with, and gradually came into fashion, as counters on playing at cards.

The people were wholly ignorant of their value, though their striking appearance, and regularity of form, created a general interest for them, similar to that which induces persons to collect shells or pebbles on the sea shores of our island.

In this state the gems remained for some time, until an officer arrived who had been in India, and was reputed to be a mathematician. At the social parties which he visited, these singular counters attracted his notice, and having obtained some, he examined them more minutely when alone, and was particularly struck with their geometrical symmetry of form; he compared them with common pebbles of a similar bulk, which he purposely gathered, but could not find any, that at all resemble them in regularity; after some time the number of these stones augmented, and all persons in the habit of amusing themselves at cards, possessed a large or smaller number, which circulated amongst them without exciting the least surmise as to their real worth; the currency of the country was gold dust, in various quantities, as an eighth of an ounce, half an ounce &c.

and of course small scales were in very general use. The officer already mentioned, conceived the idea of weighing one of those counters against a pebble of equal size, and having done so, he found that the weight of one considerably exceeded the weight of the other; he then tried to make an impression upon one of those counters, by rubbing it on a stone with water, but it resisted all his efforts, while a plane was produced on the stone by the labour of a few minutes; when an opportunity presented itself, he sent a few of those counters by a friend to Lisbon for the purpose of having them examined: they were given to some lapidaries who had never worked Diamonds, and perhaps had never seen one in its native state; they however returned them, saying, the stones were too hard for their tools; at length, by mere accident, the Dutch consul saw them, and gave his opinion that they were Diamonds, some were immediately forwarded to Holland, where they were manufactured into brilliants, and pronounced to be Diamonds equal in quality to those brought from Golconda or any other part of India; the returning fleet carried this favourable news to Rio de Janiero, from whence it was rapidly communicated to the interior, and fortunate was the person who could procure a large share of these hitherto pretty pebbles, but now Diamonds; they were quickly bought np, and the counters which had for years been handed about so carelessly, became the property of three or four individuals in a few days. I am indebted to the late Mr. Mawe for this, as well as other valuable information.

The Diamond mines in the Brazil belong to the crown, and any trade whatever in these gems, even the possession of one is declared contraband, and is visited with the severest punishment. Yet they are not unfrequently offered for sale by private individuals, who contrive to pass the guards, and convey them from the interior to Rio-de-Janiero, &c. The government Diamonds, however, form far the greater part of the trade.

The district of Terro de Frio, where they are found, is small in extent, and the number of negroes constantly employed in

washing for them does not exceed two thousand. No one is allowed to enter this district without special permission, and if travellers are obliged to pass through it, they are always escorted by a soldier, and not allowed to make any stay. The principal town where the intendants and officers reside, is called Tejuco, but the mines, or washings, are at some distance from it. The Diamonds collected in the various parts of the district, are taken to the town, and secured in the treasury, in the presence of all, or at least three, of the principal officers; they are annually sent to Rio de Janiero, in the charge of a captain of cavalry with a sufficient convoy, and are delivered to the treasurer and officers of government at that capital. Here the gems remain until it is determined to send them to Europe; the last 70 years they have been transmitted to England, but they will now probably revert to their former channel, and go to Lisbon. It was customary for the monarchs of Portugal, to make choice of any rough Diamond that pleased them, above the weight of twenty carats, and thus has been accumulated, that costly set now belonging to the King of Portugal.

Through dark retreats pursue the winding ore,
Search nature's depths, and view her boundless store:
The secret cause in tuneful numbers sing,
How gems and metals were fram'd, and whence they spring;
Whether the active sun, with chemic flames,
Through porous earth transmits its genial beams,
With heat impregnating the womb of night,
The offspring shines with its paternal light;
Or whether, urged by subterraneous flames,
The earth ferments, and flows in liquid streams
Purg'd from their dross, the nobler parts refine,
Receive new forms and with fresh beauties shine:
Or whether by creation first they sprung,
When yet unpois'd the world's great fabric hung,
Metals the basis of the earth were made,
The bars on which its fix'd foundations laid;
All second causes they disdain to own,
And from the Almighty's fiat sprung alone.—YALDEN.

Description of a Diamond Mine, on the river Tigitonhonha, in the Brazilian territory.

The river Tigitonhonha is formed by a number of streams, and in general from three to nine feet deep; the deeper parts of the channel of the river are laid dry, by means of large caissons or chain-pumps, worked by a water-wheel. The mud is then carried off, and the cascalhao is dug up, and removed to a convenient place for washing. There is two inclined planes, about one hundred yards in length, along which carts are drawn by a large water-wheel, divided into two parts, the ladles or buckets of which are so constructed, that the rotary motion may be altered by changing the current of water from one side to the other; this wheel, by means of a rope made of untanned hides, works two carts, one of which descends empty on one inclined plane, while the other, loaded with cascalhao, is drawn to the top of the other, where it falls into a cradle, empties

itself, and descends in its turn. At a work called Canjeca, about a mile up the river, on the opposite side, there are three cylindrical engines for draining the cascalhao, like those used in the mining country of Derbyshire; this is the only machinery of consequence in the Diamond district.

The stratum of cascalhao, consists of the same materials with that in the gold district; on many parts, by the edge of the river, are large conglomerate masses of rounded pebbles, cemented by oxide of iron, which sometimes envelope gold and Diamonds, they calculate on getting as much cascalhao in the dry season, as will occupy all their hands during the months which are more subject to rain: when carried from the bed of the river whence it is dug, it is laid in heaps, containing apparently from five to fifteen tons each.

Water is conveyed from a distance, and is distributed to the various parts of the works, by means of aqueducts, constructed with great ingenuity and skill, for washing the cascalhao in troughs, for the Diamonds. Along the lower end of the troughs, of which there are about twenty, a small channel is dug, to carry off the water: on the heap of cascalhao, at equal distances, are placed three high chairs, for the officers or overseers; after they are seated, the negroes enter the troughs, each provided with a rake of a peculiar form, and short handle, with which he rakes into the troughs about fifty or eighty pounds weight of cascalhao; the water being then let in upon it, the cascalhao is spread abroad, and continually raked up to the head of the trough, so as to be kept in constant motion. This operation being performed for the space of a quarter of an hour, the water then begins to run clearer; having washed the earthy particles away, the gravel-like matter is raked up to the end of the trough; after the current flows away quite clear, the largest stones are thrown out, and afterwards those of inferior size, then the whole is examined with great care for Diamonds.

When a negro finds one, he immediately stands upright and clasps his hands, then extends them, holding the gem between

his fore finger and thumb; an overseer receives it from him, and deposits it in a gamella or bowl, suspended from the centre of the structure, half full of water; in this vessel, all the Diamonds found in the conrse of the day, are placed, and at the close of work, are taken out and delivered to the principal officer, who, after they have been weighed, registers the particulars in a book kept for that purpose; when a negro is so fortunate as to find a Diamond of the weight of 17½ carats, much ceremony immediately takes place, he is crowned with a wreath of flowers, and carried in procession to the administrator, who gives him his freedom, by paying his owner for it, he receives a present of new clothes, and is permitted to work on his own account.

When a stone of eight or ten carats is found, the negro receives two new shirts, a complete new suit with a hat and a handsome knife: for smaller stones of trivial amount, proportionate premiums are given.

Many precautions are taken to prevent the negroes from embezzling Diamonds; although they work in a bent position, and consequently never know whether the overseers are watching them or not, yet it is easy for them to omit gathering any which they see, and place them in a corner of the trough, for the purpose of secreting them at leisure hours; to prevent which, they are frequently changed while the operation is going on, a word of command being given by the overseers, they instantly move into each others' troughs, so that no opportunity of collusion can take place. If a negro be suspected of having swallowed a Diamond, he is confined in a strong room until the fact can be ascertained; formerly, the punishment inflicted on a negro for smuggling Diamonds, was confiscation of his person to the state; but it being thought too hard for the owner to suffer for the offence of his servant, the penalty has been commuted, for personal imprisonment and chastisement; this is much lighter punishment than that which their owners, or any white man, would suffer for a similar offence.

There is no particular regulation respecting the dress of the negroes; they work in the clothes most suitable to the nature of their employment, generally in a waistcoat and pair of drawers, and not naked, as some travellers have stated. Their hours of labour are from a little before sunrise, until sunset; half an hour being allowed for breakfast, and two hours at noon. While washing, they change their posture as often as they please, which is very necessary, as the work requires them to place their feet on the edges of the trough, and to stoop considerably: this posture is particularly prejudicial to young growing negroes, as it renders them in kneed. Four or five times during the day they all rest, when snuff, of which they are very fond, is given to them.

The negroes are formed into working parties, called troops, containing 200 each, under the direction of an administrator and inferior officers. Each troop has a clergyman and a surgeon to attend it. With respect to the subsistence of the negroes, although the present governor has in some degree improved it, by allowing a daily portion of fresh beef, which was not allowed by his predecessors. The owners are all anxious to get their negroes into the service, doubtless from sinister motives.

The officers are liberally paid, and live in a style of considerable elegance, which a stranger would not be led to expect in so remote a place.

"Having detailed the process of washing for Diamonds, I proceed to a general description of the situation in which they are found; the flat pieces of ground on each side the river, are equally rich throughout their extent, and hence the officers are enabled to calculate the value of an unworked place, by comparison with the amount found on working with the part adjoining; these known places are left in reserve, and trial is made of more uncertain grounds. The following observation is often heard from the intendant;—that piece of ground, (speaking of an unworked flat by the side of the river) will yield ten thousand carats of Diamonds, whenever it be required to get them, in the

regular course of working, or when on any particular occasion, an order from government arrives, demanding an extraordinary and immediate supply.

The substances accompanying Diamonds, and considered good indication of them, are bright beam like iron ore, a slaty flint like substance, approaching lydian stone, of fine texture, black oxide of iron, in great quantities, rounded bits of blue quartz, yellow crystals and other materials entirely different from any thing known, to be produced in the adjacent mountains.

Diamonds are by no means peculiar to the beds of rivers or deep ravines ; they have been found in cavities and water courses, on the summits of the most lofty mountains. The matrix of the Diamond, not a vestige of which could be traced ; they often found Diamonds cemented in pudding stone, accompanied with grains of gold, but that they always broke them out, as they could not enter them in the treasury, or weigh them with matter adhering to them.

This river, and other streams in its vicinity, have been in washing many years, and have produced great quantities of Diamonds, which have ever been reputed of the finest quality, they vary in size, some are so small, that four or five are required to weigh one grain, consequently sixteen or twenty to the carat; there are seldom found more than two or three stones of from seventeen to twenty carats, in the course of a year, and not once in two years is there found, throughout the whole washings, a stone of thirty carats.

From the great quantity of debris, or worked cascalhao in every part near the river, it is reasonable to calculate that the works have been in operation above seventy years, of course there must arrive a period at which they will be exhausted, but there are grounds in the neighbourhood particularly in the Cerro de St. Antonio, and in the country now inhabited by the Indians, which probably afford these gems in equal abundance."

The twelve gems for the twelve months, is a polish superstition, that each month has a particular gem attached to it, which governs it, and is supposed to influence the destiny of persons born in that month, and is therefore customary among friends and lovers particularly, to present each other, on their natal day, with some trinket containing their tutelary gem, accompanied with its appropriate wish ; this, kind fate, or perhaps kinder fancy, generally contrives to realize according to their expectations.

January.—Jaycinth or Garnet, denotes constancy and fidelity in every engagement.

February.—Amethyst, preserves mortals from strong passions, and insures peace of mind.

March.—Pearls, denote purity and happiness.

April.—Diamond or Sapphire, denotes repentance and innocence.

May.—Emerald, successive love.

June.—Ruby, keepeth the wearer from sorrow and danger.

July.—Chrysoprase or Beryl, ensures conjugal felicity.

August.—Sardonyx, ensures the forgetfulness or cure of evils.

September.—Chrysolyte, preserves from or cures folly.

October.—Opal or Aquamarine, preserves its wearer from all diseases of the heart, &c.

November.—Topaz, ensures fidelity and friendship, dispels melancholy.

December.—Turquoise, denotes the most brilliant success and happiness in every circumstance of life.

The Royal Miniature Repeating Watch, made by Mr. Arnold, an eminent artist, in London. On the 4th of June, 1764, the King's birth-day, Mr. Arnold waited on his late Majesty, George III. with a curious repeating watch, which he had constructed by his Sovereign's command, he had also the honour of being introduced to the Dowager Princess of Wales, his Majesty's Mother; and the Prince Mecklenburg Strelitz, who were all pleased to evince their approbation of such an extraordinary piece of mechanical excellence. The particulars of this unique repeating watch, are as follows. It contains 120 different parts, and it altogether weighs no more than five pennyweights, seven grains and three quarters. This ingenious piece of mechanism was about the size of half a sovereign.

This curious repeating watch, is supposed to be the smallest that was ever made by an English Artist.

A most extraordinary piece of mechanism is Two Clocks, which were made by English artists, and sent as a present from the East India Company, to the Emperor of China. These Clocks are in the form of chariots, in which are placed, in a fine attitude, a lady, leaning her right hand upon a part of the chariot, under which is a clock of curious workmanship, little larger than a shilling, that strikes and repeats, and goes eight days: upon her finger sits a bird, finely modelled, and set with diamonds and rubies, with its wings expanded in a flying posture, and it actually flutters for a considerable time, on touching a diamond button below it; the body of the bird (which contains part of the wheels, that in a manner give life to it) is very diminutive: the lady holds in her left hand a gold tube, not much thicker than a large pin, on the top of which is a small box, to which a circular ornament, set with diamonds, not larger than a sixpence, is fixed, which goes round nearly three hours in constant regular motion. Over the lady's head, supported by a small fluted pillar not bigger than a quill, are two umbrellas, under the largest of which a bell is fixed, at a considerable

distance from the clock, and seems to have no connection with it, but from which a communication is secretly conveyed to the hammer that regularly strikes the hour, and repeats the same to the clock below. At the feet of the lady is a golden dog, before which, from the point of the chariot, are two birds, fixed on spiral springs, the wings and feathers of which are set with gems of various colours, and appear as if flying away with the chariot, which, from another secret motion, is continued to run in a straight, circular, or any direction; while a boy, that lays hold of the chariot behind, seems also to push it forward. Above the umbrella, are flowers and ornaments of precious stones; and it terminates with a flying dragon, set with gems in the same manner. The whole is of gold most curiously executed, and embellished with rubies and pearls, &c.

The Abbey Church of St. Dennis, in France, about the year 1750, contained many valuable gems and curiosities; the treasures within were immense. Over the door of the choir, was placed a large massive gold cross, enriched with diamonds and all kinds of stones; there are some bas-relief of gold upon the great altar, and diamonds and other gems decorate this, as well as another cross of six feet in height, placed over the table There are six cabinets crowded with the treasures of the place; the Regalia of France are of the number; there is the crown of Charlemagne, it is of pure gold, enriched with diamonds; the French Kings wear this on the day of their coronation: his sceptre, sword, and spurs, are enriched with all kinds of gems; and a volume kept here, containing the Epistles and Gospels, is loaded, rather than decorated, on the covers, with gems of every description.

There are also relics of Saints; King Charlemagne's Ivory Chessmen, Rowland his nephew's Hunting Horn, and the Sword of Joan of Arc. There is another Sword, with the name of Talbot embossed upon it; it was found near Castillion, on the very spot where that illustrious Briton is said to have fallen.

A bachnal, in bas-relief, gives tenfold value to a cup of fine solid oriental agate, and about the neck of them St. Benedict hangs a cameo with the head of Proteus. There is one more Jewel of immense value, it is an Intaglio; the figure is Julia, the daughter of Titus, the mistress of Domitian; it is on a most magnificent Beryl, of an oval shape, an inch and a half long, and without a flaw, set transparent, and has a romantic head-dress; it rises to a strange height before in little buckles; the name of the artist who cut this beautiful gem, is Euhadus, and was evidently one of the first and greatest artists of the antique engraving.

The cloisters has been the repository of the French monarchs from very early ages. Some of the tombs are very expensive; that of Louis XII. makes a great figure; it is of white marble, the bas-relief represents his victories. Poncia of florence, was the sculptor.

The principal regard is paid to those of Charles the VIII. Francis the I. and Henry the II. after the Italian manner. There is a statue of the great Dagobert, it stands on the left of the entrance of the abbey; he is represented sitting in an imperial mantle, on the right shoulder; there is a look of dignity and reference in this statue.

There is a curious subject on the mausoleum. in the choir, viz. a bas-relief representation of a vision. Dagobert, hurried by devils in a boat towards the vulcanian islands; he is invoking the three saints, Martin, Maurice, and Dennis, and they are hastening to his relief.

The Saint Chapelle, near Notre Dame, in France, contains the finest antique statuary; many are by Phidias. There are many curious treasures on vellum, and among them the greatest curiosity of this trifling kind, is the mass book of the great Charlemagne; the Gospels are written in gold. Charles V. has enriched Saint Chapelle with a fine antique cameo, on a perfect and beautiful Oriental Onyx, the largest engraved gem in the world; it was the apothesis of Agustus admirably executed.

The Royal Abbey of St. Germain, in France, is enriched with antique statuary and other curiosities. There is a most superb crucifix of solid gold, embellished with diamonds and gems of every description, of great value ; also, another valuable crucifix in the centre with a beautiful antique head of Adrian Intaglio, on a fine oriental sapphire.

The Palace of Versailles, in France, contains a most, valuable collectionof curiosities, a series of wrought gems as in the cabinet; there is a magnificent oriental onyx, six inches in diameter, the finest camoe, that was ever seen, on which are two figures, a male and female, in a chariot drawn by dragons. They are Germanicus and Agrippina. Another on Onyx, the apothesis of Gerpina. One on a blue agate, with a black ground extremely fine, and in high relief; it is Alexander. A magnificent cameo, the figures are a male and female, with a tree between them, and some Hebrew characters on the rim ; supposed to be the representation of Adam and Eve. On another stone, Jupiter and Minerva. A fine cameo of Augustus, Anthony and Lepidus ; and one of Julius Cæsar, Augustus, Tiberius, and Germanicus, most beautifully engraved. There are some fine antiques of the intaglio kind ; one is Michael Angelo's Ring, on a beautiful cornelian, with no less than thirteen figures engraved on it, small, but elegant in the highest degree, and a most masterly piece of workmanship. Angelo purchased it at a very considerable price, and Louis XIV. of his heirs, at a much greater rate.

The Cirero is another inestimable intaglio, likewise a very fine one of Julia Damna, wife to Severus, engraved on an emerald.

A different arrangement of all the treasures, paintings, &c in the Palace at Versailles, was made in the year 1837.

The Holy House called Santa Casa, at Loretto, which contains wonderful curiosities, statuary, paintings, gems, &c. The blaze of light in every part of the house, serves to set off the riches in a very particular manner ; the lamps which serve for this

purpose, are extremely numerous; of those, 62 are of gold and silver, and some of them of the most exquisite workmanship; they surround the image of the Virgin Mary with Christ in her arms, it is four feet high, with attendant angels of massive gold; in one of these is a heart of gold, covered with diamonds, and enriched with a flame of rubies; it is supposed to have been a present to our James II.

In one part of Santa Casa, are images and utensils of solid gold; the extravagant dresses of the images, the profusion of solid plate, and the gems of every description, are of an immense value. The very vestments of the images are beyond calculation; the Jewels seem to have been selected from the choicest oriental stones, and are so numerous, that one would imagine all the courts in the world had been exhausted, to furnish this single blaze.

There is nothing so costly but may be seen here, in quantities which would lead us to suppose, that the priests possessed the art of making, what it appears almost impossible to purchase. Whatever is wanting in dignity and elegance in this house, where the images stand, is amply supplied by the edifice in which these extraordinary treasures repose; it is a large and noble edifice, which fills the eye with its extent, and charms with its elegance. There is an altar-piece, at the upper end, viz. a Crucifixion, a most unique painting, by Pomerancio, of great value, and the ceiling is also painted in compartments, by the same artist.

A fine large painting, of the Madona with a Christ upon her lap, by Raphael, with many more of his productions, and a great variety of others by the first masters, also grace this magnificent place.

Tribune at Florence, the great repository of the first treasures. The vault of the roof is mother of pearl, set on a rich ground; the floor is paved with the richest marbles, and the walls are hung with crimson velvet, and are covered a second time with the

finest paintings and mosaics; the windows are at a great height from the floor, and are all of crystal. Holbein has furnished this splendid room with a portrait of Luther, and one of Sir Robert Southwell, of Harry the eighth's time; there is also a Duchess of Buckingham, by Rubens; and a Charles V. on horseback, by Titian, that are equal to any thing by those masters. In the middle of the room stands a most superb table, composed of Lapis Lazuli, round this table stand six famous statues of white marble, and three of the six are Venuses in different attitudes, the most conspicuous and elegant of which, is that known by the name of Venus de Medicis, and was cut by one of the finest artists the world can boast of. There is a great variety of other fine statuary, by the first masters.

The Cabinet of the Tribuna abounds in the antiquities; there is a sleeping cupid, and a most elegant figure of the young Hercules, which promises all the strength of the growing hero, and yet with all the softness of an infant. the heads of Nero and Aurelius, when children, show their rudiments, of their succeeding different tempers. The head of Tiberius, on a fine turquoise stone, is beautifully executed, and there are thousands smaller antiques, also disposed round the shelves of this cabinet. In the same place, though not exposed to common view, a vast number of vessels, basons, beekers &c. cut of pure rock crystal, and ornamented in very high taste, foliage and figures &c. There are severel vessels of onyx, agate, and lapis lazuli, valerius de bellis, Vincentine, was the artist who executed them. Among the intaglios of this famous cabinet, is a Caius and Lucius Cæsar, with Romulus and Ramus. The Domitilla also is an excellent workmanship. The Ring of Vespasian is fine The Pescennes Niger, the Pyrrhus, and the Mithridates, are glorious expressions of the characters of those heroes. There is also a Pallas, a whole figure, on a fine onyx two inches long; the head of Apollo on the other side of the same onyx. A whole figure of Mars, a fine cameo, a Hercules perfectly like the Farnist'an; a Bacchanal, the drapery is fine; an antique scene

with the masks; the she Wolf with the Royal Infants, the circus with a race of the Quadridges, these and many others are miracles of workmanship.

There is also a fine cameo, the figure of a satyr, butting with his head at a goat; and another beautiful cameo, representing a building finely executed, the pillars are of the corinthian order, and the frieze, dorio; a young Hercules and a Lion, a Milo and the bull, a beautiful bacchanal, Tiberias and Lucia in profile, and a Vespasian in alto-relievo, with almost a full face.

There are as venerable antiques as are in the world. The modern things in the same way are productions of some merit; the centaurs and Lupithae is a fine one of those, a murder of the innocents, on Heliotrope, and some others, that will bear to be seen after the antiques. The other parts of the palace are full of antique statuary and paintings, by the first masters. The chapel of Lorenzo, of the palace, is a noble building, of an octagon form; its height is about twice its diameter. Ferdinand II. was himself the architect, but there is nothing that charms so much as the gallery, or covered coridor, which makes a communication between this palace and the gallery of curiosities, in the old one; it is a wonderful length, and carried over the arno; its height 24 feet, breadth eighteen feet; the walls are painted in fresco, the subjects are the memorable incidents in the life of Charles V. his son Philip, and Henry IV. of France, and Ferdinand II. great Duke of Tuscany.

The family Jewels of the house Medici, are more than these in the possession of almost any European crowned head; the most remarkable is an oriental topaz, undoubtedly the finest in the world, and of great value; and the Diamond which, until governor Pitt brought over that which the French King is now possessed of, was the finest in Europe; this said Diamond, was part of the spoil of the late Duke of Burgundy, Charles Le Hardi, and it fell into the hands of an ignorant Swiss, and was first sold for a trifle, but its real value was soon known, and Leo X-

paid sufficent price for it. There is no doubt, this is the Sancī Diamond, a discription of which is given in this work. See page 27.

At Milan, the great ornament, and indeed the great pride, of the Church of St. Ambrose, is its unique Altar; it is a most magnificent specimen of the fine arts; it is covered all over with plates of gold, engraved with vast variety of figures, and its various compartments bordered round with the most precious gems of every description, very profusely employed in its decorations; even the rare of the altar is covered with silver, richly gilt, and adorned with precious stones also. It is not, however, for its richness, that the altar is so much admired, there are others much more rich in Milan, for instance, at the church of St. Alexander, the gems displayed surpass all imagination; and other churches are equally magnificent at Milan; the great reason why so much veneration is felt with respect to the altar of the church of St. Ambrose, is that it has, notwithstanding all the vicissitudes that Milan has been subject to, and notwithstanding that the barbarians of former times pillaged the churches, and robbed the altars, yet this altar, and this alone, escaped, and has wonderfully been preserved from violation. Behind this very magnificent piece of art, can be discovered the choir, the roof of which is all mosaic work, and in which Christ is represented in heaven, surrounded by angels.

At coronations of the Emperors, &c. at Milan, the church of St. Ambrose is always visited with great pomp and magnificence.

At Vienna and Dresden, the churches and palaces have a most magnificent display of precious gems of every description, and some of considerable magnitude; it is almost impossible to describe them, they are so unique, and of such an immense value.

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